THE

PRISONER's SELECT MANUAL

694. c. 34.
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OF

DEVOUT EXERCISES:

INCLUDING

FORMS OF VISITATION,

AND

SELECT PSALMS.

BY THE REV. W. C.
Chaplain of the *New Bayley Prison*, MANCHESTER.

k

Turn ye to the Strong-hold, ye Prisoners of Hope.
ZECHAR. IX. 12.

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PRICE SIX-PENCE.

TO THE

PRISONERS

OF THE

NEW BAYLEY,

This SELECTION,

DRAWN UP

FOR THEIR PARTICULAR USE,

IS AFFECTIONATLELY RECOMMENDED

BY THEIR

SINCERE FRIEND

AND WELL-WISHER,

THE CHAPLAIN.

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O Thou

O *Thou, who art the gracicus Father of Spirits, who delighteſt not in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn and live; deny not Thy bleſſing to theſe* penitential and devout Exercifes; *ſuffer not Thine Enemies to triumph in Thy ſight, nor the great Deceiver of ſouls to prevail againſt Thy Spirit and Thy Word. O pity poor deluded ſinners, who have no hearts to pity or help themſelves. Command the blind to ſee, the deaf to hear, the dead to live; and let not ſin and death be able to reſiſt Thee. Awaken the ſecure; reſolve the unreſolved, and confirm the wavering. Let the eyes of ſinners, who may read this Book, be next employed in weeping over their ſins. Good Lord, bring them to themſelves, and to Thee, before their ſins have brought them to everlaſting perdition!—Grant this, Bleſſed* LORD *of Thine infinite Love and Mercy towards poor afflicted Sinners.* Amen.

DEVOUT

DEVOUT EXERCISES.

I.

The Lord's Invitation.

SAY unto them, As I live, ſaith the Lord God, I have no pleaſure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O houſe of Iſrael. *Ezek.* xxiii. 11.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you reſt.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye ſhall find reſt unto your ſouls. *Matt.* xi. 28, 29.

Turn ye, therefore, to Me with all your heart, and with faſting, and weeping, and with mourning. *Joel* ii. 12.

Remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and loathe yourſelves in your own ſight for all your evils that ye have committed.

And ye ſhall know that I am the Lord, when I have wrought with you for my Name's ſake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye houſe of Iſrael, ſaith the Lord God. *Ezek.* xx. 43, 44.

II.

The Priſoner's Reflection.

O My Soul, who hath warned thee to flee from the wrath to come? Who hath *invited* thee to lay hold on the paths of life?—Even that Almighty

Being, who is acquainted with all thy ways, and all thy ſecret intentions; in whoſe hand are the iſſues of life and death; and before whoſe dreadful Tribunal thou muſt one day moſt certainly appear, to give a ſtrict account of all thy actions, of every idle word and of every evil thought; where thy Conſcience will then be thine accuſer.

Think, O my Soul, think, if thou canſt, what inconceivable horrors will ſeize the impenitent Sinner when arraigned before the JUDGMENT-SEAT OF CHRIST! What would ſuch a wretch give to purchaſe one ſuch opportunity of Repentance, as GOD now in great Mercy giveth unto thee?—If ever thou hopeſt to eſcape theſe horrors, O my Soul, examine thyſelf moſt ſeriouſly; whilſt the day of ſalvation laſts, call thine own ways to remembrance, and make thy peace with God; judge thyſelf here, leſt thou be condemned hereafter.

III.

DUTIES, ACCORDING TO WHICH SELF-EXAMINATION SHOULD BE MADE.

I. TOWARDS GOD:—This holy Obedience you are to pay, in a due and devout attendance on Prayers, both public and private; and on Sacraments.

In thankfully owning GOD's free bounty, and praiſing His Goodneſs, for all the good things which you any-ways receive.

In ſubmitting patiently to His holy Will under any afflictions, without grudging or diſcontent;

Without growing impatient for eaſe before His good time, becauſe they are of His permiſſion.

In truſting to Him, and to His Providence, for ſupplying you in all your wants;

And for preſerving you from any dangers, or for delivering you out of them.

And

Aid in so trusting to Him, as never to make use of any sin for compassing your own ends; nor to betake yourself to any wickedness, be it what it will, when you have a tempting opportunity thereby to supply or deliver yourself.

In reverencing His Holy Name; never using it but with honour and respect;

Not as a light By-word;

Nor ever in common Oaths;

Least of all, in false and faithless Oaths.

In reverencing also His Word and His Worship, and any things or persons devoted to Him, or commissioned by Him.

II. Towards Yourself:—You are to perform this Duty, in *Humility*, or by preserving a just sense of your own faults, defects, and weaknesses;

Not priding yourself on account of any outward things;

Nor being puffed up by any undue conceits of yourself, or with contempt of others.

In *Chastity*; first of the heart, not suffering the fancy to fix upon forbidden objects; nor to please itself in being desirous of, or in contriving for any unlawful delights:

And also of the hand, tongue, ear, and eye; and of all the outward actions, which are to be kept clean of all forbidden and impure enjoyments.

In *Temperance* about meats and drinks.

In *Self-denial* and mortification to this world; and in a readiness to part with any of the ease, the interests or conveniences thereof, rather than with the ways of truth and righteousness.

III. Towards your Neighbour:—You are to discharge this Duty likewise, in being just in all your dealings:

In being content with what is your own, and not coveting, nor taking away your Neighbour's right from him, either by force or fraud:

Not by detaining it when it is unjustly taken, nor any-ways hindering him of the same.

—And by this your *Neighbour*, you are to understand every good and moral man, whether countrymen or foreigners, whether of high or low condition.

In being faithful to all your promiſes.

In being true in all your ſpeeches, deceiving none with falſe expreſſions;

And ſlandering none with falſe aſperſions;

Nor detracting from any perſon's real virtues and good actions.

In all the ways of charity towards others, eſpecially the neceſſitous, giving alms as you are able, or other charitable aſſiſtance for their relief.

In candour, or fair interpretation of other men's words or actions.

In not delighting unneceſſarily to publiſh other perſons' faults, by evil ſpeaking; but ſeeking rather to cover or excuſe them, as you deſire others to do by your own.

In meekneſs and patience under injuries, not burſting into paſſion, and opprobrious words thereupon.

In forgiveneſs of the ſame, and doing good for evil.

In living peaceably yourſelf.

And in ſtudying to preſerve peace among others; not begetting, nor cheriſhing any miſunderſtandings between neighbours, but endeavouring to remove them where you find them.

In love, and reverence, and duty to your parents:

And, if need be, in ſuccouring and maintaining them.

In conſtant reſpect, loyalty and obedience to your ſovereign, and to all who are in lawful authority.

And in a faithful diſcharge of your duties in any other relations, as of a huſband and wife, maſter or ſervant, or the like, wherein by the Providence of God, you ſtand placed with others, and mutually indebted.

IV.

IV.

A Form of Self-examination.

I Adjure thee, O my Soul, in the Preſence of the great Judge, who knows all the ſecrets of thy heart; I adjure thee, as thou will anſwer before God's Judgment-ſeat in heaven, tell me—

Does not thy daily experience teach thee, that thy whole nature is corrupt, prone to all that is evil, averſe from all that is good?

How haſt thou ſpent thy time from thy childhood to this very moment?

How haſt thou kept the ſolemn vow of thy Baptiſm?

What good duties haſt thou omitted?

What ſins haſt thou committed?

—In particular, what ſin art thou guilty of, more immediately *againſt* God?

Art thou guilty of any infidelity, or wilful ignorance reſpecting God?—of any diſtruſt, preſumption, or deſpair of the Divine Mercy and Grace?

Haſt thou loved any thing more than God, or feared any thing above Him?

Haſt thou been guilty of hypocriſy in God's ſervice or of forſaking Him, and joining thyſelf in ſpirit to His infernal Adverſaries?

Art thou guilty of repining or murmuring at God's Providence; of being impatient under His needful Afflictions; of being unthankful for His Mercies; of being diſobedient to His Commands, or of being incorrigible under His Judgments?

When, and in what manner, haſt thou been guilty of diſowning God?

By blaſphemous or irreligious thoughts, or diſcourſes? or by tamely hearing others blaſpheme?

By taking God's moſt holy Name in vain?—by cuſtomary or falſe ſwearing?—by breach of any lawful oath, or ſolemn vow?

By any Sacrilege, or irreverent behaviour in God's

House?—by mis-spending the LORD's Day?—by any neglect of, or inattention to GOD's Word, read or preached? or by unprofitableness under the means of Grace?

Have I dishonoured GOD by coldness, by wanderings, by indevotion, or carelessness in my prayers?—by weariness in His service, or by my total neglect of it?—or by unworthy communicating?

Lastly, by impenitence, by putting off the evil day, by superficial and partial repentances, by frequent relapses, or by resisting the good motions and dictates of GOD's Holy Spirit?

—O my Soul, what sins art thou guilty of more immediately *against thyself?*

Art thou guilty of pride; of boasting of thy own deeds; of performing good Duties merely to gain favour or esteem; or of committing sin to avoid the reproach of men?

Hast thou been immoderately greedy of riches, or of sensual pleasures? or guilty of peevishness; of too violent, or too lasting fits of anger; of inconstancy, of inconsideration, or of discontentedness with thy condition?

Hast thou been guilty of mis-spending thy time; of negligence in resisting Temptations; or of not improving those opportunities of Religion and piety, which GOD giveth thee in *this place?*

Hast thou been guilty of idleness; of downright drunkenness, or of promoting it in others?

Hast thou been guilty of any uncleanness of the eye, of the hand, or of the fancy; of any lasciviousness, fornication, or adultery? or hast thou taken delight in lewd company; in vicious or unchaste stories, or expressions?

—O my Soul, what sins art thou guilty of more immediately *against thy Neighbour?*

How when, where, against whom hast thou been guilty of any injury, injustice, oppression, breach of trust or promise; of any fraud, theft, flattery, dissimulation

ſimulation or treachery; of lying, or of giving any unjuſt ſcandal?

How, when, where, againſt whom haſt thou been guilty of any ill-language; detraction, or ſlander; of tale-bearing, raſh cenſure, or back-biting; of contemning, or ſcoffing at thy Neighbour, either for his infirmities, or for his being religious?

How, when, where, againſt whom haſt thou been guilty of any contentiouſneſs, ſpite, or revenge; of delighting to grieve thy Neighbour, without any juſt cauſe; of railing at, actually hurting, or murdering him in thy mind, by ill wiſhes or curſes? Haſt thou been guilty of bitter imprecations, of bearing falſe witneſs, or of coveting any thing poſſeſſed by thy Neighbour?

Haſt thou been guilty of unthankfulneſs to thoſe who have done thee good, or have reproved thee? of unnatural behaviour to any of thy relations? of evil-ſpeaking, diſreſpect, or ſtubbornneſs againſt any of thy Governors, either in Church or ſtate? particularly, againſt thy parents, maſters, or ſuperiors in *this Place?* or of any wilful diſobedience to the lawful commands of all or any of them?

Haſt thou tempted any other to ſin, by connivance or encouragement, by command or perſuaſion; and mightily increaſed thy own guilt, by furthering the Damnation of thy Brother?*

V. A PRAYER

* In caſe, my afflicted Brother, you meet with any ſcruples or troubles of conſcience in the practice of this Self-examination, I then adviſe you, as the Church does, to go to your ſpiritual Guide; and be not aſhamed to unburthen your Soul freely to him, that, beſides his ghoſtly counſel, you may receive the benefit of his prayers for your Abſolution: For, though Confeſſion of our Sins to GOD is alone matter of *duty*, and *abſolutely neceſſary*; yet Confeſſion to our *ſpiritual Guide* alſo, is by many humble ſouls, found to be very *advantageous* to *true Repentance*.

V.

A Prayer after Self-examination.

O LORD GOD, I have now, by thy aſſiſtance conſidered my own evil ways: O Thou, who alone knoweſt the Heart, and who alone canſt change it, create in me ſuch a broken and contrite heart, which thou haſt promiſed not to deſpiſe, and ſo deep a ſenſe of my own ſin and miſery, that my Repentance may bear ſome proportion to my Guilt. O my God, pardon all my failings, and perfect that good work which thou haſt here begun in me for thy Mercy's ſake. *Amen.*

VI.

Passages of Scripture, directing and enforcing Penitential Confession of Sins.

IF our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 1 *John* iii. 20.

Our iniquities are all before Him, yea, our ſecret ſins are ſet in the light of His countenance. *Pſ.* xc. 8.

And therefore, he that covereth his ſins ſhall not proſper; but whoſo confeſſeth and forſaketh them, ſhall have mercy. *Prov.* xxviii. 13.

If we confeſs our ſins, He is faithful and juſt to forgive us our ſins, and to cleanſe us from all unrighteouſneſs. 1 *John* i. 19.

I will ariſe, therefore, and go to my Father, and will ſay unto him, Father, I have ſinned againſt heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy ſon. *Luke* xv. 18, 19.

Behold, I was ſhapen in iniquity, and in ſin did my mother conceive me. *Pſalm* li. 5.

And ſince I was born, I have gone aſtray like a loſt ſheep. *Pſalm* cxix. 176.

Mine iniquities are increaſed over my head, and my treſpaſſes are grown unto the heavens. *Ezra* ix. 6.

But

But LORD, I acknowledge my ſins unto Thee, and mine iniquities have I not hid. *Pſalm* xxxii. 5.

I acknowledge my tranſgreſſions, and my ſins are ever before me.

Againſt Thee have I ſinned, and done theſe evils in Thy ſight, that Thou mighteſt be juſtified when thou ſpeakeſt, and clear when Thou judgeſt. *Pſalm* li. 3, 4.

GOD be merciful to me a ſinner. *Luke* xviii. 3.

To me, the chief among ſinners. 1 *Tim.* i. 15.

To me, that have been at agreement with hell, and made a covenant with death. *Iſa.* xxviii. 15.

And whoſe deſtruction is of myſelf. *Hoſ.* xiii. 9.

VII.

A FORM OF CONFESSION.

O Thou great JUDGE of Heaven and Earth, before whoſe glorious MAJESTY even the good Angels fall proſtrate, and tremble:

With what debaſement and dread ought I to appear before *Thy awful Preſence*, who am but duſt and aſhes, and, which is infinitely worſe, a miſerable and wretched Sinner!

Thou, LORD, putteſt no truſt in thy ſaints, and the Heavens are not clean in thy ſight, and the very Angels thou chargeſt with folly. *Job* iv: 18.

How much more abominable, then, and filthy am I, who daily drink iniquity like water?

"LORD, pity, and cleanſe; forgive, and ſave me, "for thy Mercy's ſake."

I know, O God, that in my fleſh dwelleth no good thing: When I would do good, evil is preſent with me; for I ſee a law in my members warring againſt the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of ſin. *Rom.* vii.

LORD, have mercy upon me, and deliver me from this body of death, this tyranny of ſin!

Alas, alas! my whole nature is corrupt, entirely prone to all evil, and averſe from all that is good; my

my Will is perverſe; my Underſtanding is full of ignorance and error; my Memory tenacious of all things which may pollute me, and forgetful of my duty; my Paſſions are inordinate; my Senſes the inlets of all impurity, and I have abuſed all my faculties: I am unclean, unclean!

"LORD, pity and cleanſe; forgive, and ſave me, "for thy Mercy's ſake."

O LORD GOD, how have I through my whole life violated the ſolemn vow I made to Thee in Baptiſm, by eagerly purſuing the vanities of this wicked world; by eaſily yielding to the Temptations of the Devil; by greedily indulging my own carnal deſires and luſts; and by diſobedience to Thy holy Will and Commandments.

FATHER, I have ſinned againſt Heaven, and in thy ſight, and am no more worthy to be called thy ſon.

I have ſinned, O LORD GOD, I have ſinned *againſt Thee*, by—

(Here confeſs the Sins which you have committed more immediately againſt GOD, *with the aggravations that accompany them.)*

I have moreover ſinned, O LORD GOD, I have ſinned *againſt Thee, and againſt my own ſelf*, by—

(Here again confeſs the ſins you have committed more immediately againſt yourſelf, *with the aggravations, &c.)*

I have alſo ſinned, O LORD GOD, I have ſinned *againſt Thee, and againſt my Neighbour*, by—

(Here likewiſe confeſs the Sin, which you have more immediately committed againſt your Neighbour, *&c. Then add.)*

"FATHER, I have ſinned againſt heaven, and in "thy ſight, and am no more worthy to be called thy "ſon: O pity, and cleanſe; forgive, and ſave me, "for thy Mercy's ſake"

—O LORD GOD, my wickedneſs is great, and my iniquities are infinite; they are more in number than the hairs of my head; and my heart would fail me,

but

but that I well know thy Mercies are more numberleſs than my ſins *Pſalm* xl: 12.

Have Mercy upon me, therefore, O LORD, according to thy great Goodneſs; according to the multitude of thy Mercies do away mine offences. *Pſalm* li: 1.

O remember not the ſins and offences of my paſt life; but receive me, bleſſed LORD, into the arms of thy fatherly compaſſion, as Thou didſt the returning Prodigal; and forgive me all my tranſgreſſions, out of the unutterable abundance of Thy infinite Love and Mercy. *Amen. Even ſo grant*, LORD JESUS.*

VIII.

PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE, DIRECTING AND ENFORCING REPENTANCE AND AMENDMENT.

I. REPENTANCE.

IF I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me. *Pſalm* lxvi. 18.

Go therefore, and ſin no more. *John* viii. 11.

Sin no more, leſt a worſe thing come unto thee. *John* v. 14.

Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do thy firſt works, or elſe I will come unto thee quickly. *Rev.* ii. 5.

Repent, and turn yourſelves from your tranſgreſſions, ſo iniquity ſhall not be your ruin; and make

* When you have thus confeſſed your Sins, endeavour, my afflicted Brother, to be ſtill more ſenſible of them, and to bewail them with a true penitential Hatred, Shame, and Sorrow. Then make ſteady Reſolutions of forſaking them, and cry earneſtly to GOD for Pardon and Grace; for you are equally required in Scripture to put on the New Man as to put off the Old. (*See Eph.* iv. 22.)—Of all which ACTS OF REPENTANCE we have given Forms in what follows, and adviſe you to repeat them over and over at your leiſure hours as devoutly as poſſible.

make you a new heart, and a new ſpirit; for why will ye die, O houſe of Iſrael? *Ezek.* xviii. 30, 31.

Waſh you, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes: ceaſe to do evil, learn to do well; then, though your ſins be as ſcarlet, they ſhall be as white as ſnow; though they be red like crimſon, they ſhall be as wool. *Iſa.* i. 15, *to* 18.

II. AMENDMENT.

Create in me a new heart, O GOD, and renew a right ſpirit within me. *Pſalm* li. 10.

I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy teſtimonies.

I made haſte, and delayed not to keep thy commandments. *Pſalm* cxix. 59, 60.

LORD, incline not my heart to any evil thing. *Pſalm* cxli. 4.

Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity. *Pſalm* cxix. 37.

Set a watch before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips. *Pſalm* cxli. 3.

Remove my foot from evil. *Prov.* iv. 27.

Hedge up my way with thorns, and make a wall, that I may not find my former paths to evil. *Hoſ.* ii. 6.

Keep back thy ſervant from preſumptuous ſins, let them not have dominion over me: then ſhall I be upright, and innocent from the great tranſgreſſion.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy ſight, O LORD, my ſtrength and my Redeemer. *Pſalm* xix. 13, 14.

IX.

In the Performance of Repentance and Amendment are included.—

I. ACTS OF SHAME.

O LORD GOD, I am aſhamed, and bluſh to lift up my face to Thee; for my iniquities are increaſed over my head, and my treſpaſſes are grown up unto the Heavens! *Ezra* ix. 6.

O my

O my Soul, what fruit have I reaped from all the pleaſures of ſin, which once flattered me: I ſee, I feel they are but vanity, and vexation of ſpirit!

Lord, I am aſhamed of my own folly and madneſs, when I call to mind how greedily I have ſucked in my own pollution; how treacherouſly I have betrayed my own ſoul to temptations, and combined with the very Devils to haſten and increaſe my own Damnation; how obſtinately I have fled from Thee, when Thy Mercy purſued me with promiſes of pardon; how unworthily I have abuſed Thy Goodneſs, and Forbearance, and Long-ſuffering, which ſhould have led me to Repentance.

Surely, after I was turned, I repented; and ſince I have conſidered my ways, I am aſhamed; yea, even confounded, becauſe I bear the reproach of my youth. *Jerem.* xxxi. 19.

II. Acts of Self-abhorrence.

I hate all evil ways, O Lord; but Thy law will I keep. *Pſalm* cxix.

O Lord God, nothing is more abominable in Thy ſight, nor more infernal; nothing more defaces Thy Divine Image, nor makes me more odious in Thy pureſt Eyes, than Sin; and therefore I hate and abhor it!

O Lord God, I confeſs I have nothing good in me, nothing which can any-way move Thee to compaſſionate ſo loathſome a Sinner, but thy own free, undeſerved, and infinite Mercy!

O Lord God, I cannot but admire the riches of Thy Goodneſs, Who haſt ſpared me ſo long, and haſt given me *this opportunity* of Repentance. O do Thou magnify Thy Mercy in my forgiveneſs. O cleanſe me from all that filth my ſoul hath contracted, which now renders me odious to my own ſelf, as well as to Thee.

III. Acts of Contrition.

Miſerable wretch that I am! how could I begin ſo early to offend my Creator, and ſin ſo much in ſo ſhort a time?

Lord, I fear I never yet thoroughly conſidered how evil and how bitter a thing it is to depart from Thee: O make me every day more and more ſenſible of the error of my ways, and of my own infinite vileneſs.

Miſerable wretch that I am!—that ever I ſhould commit thoſe ſins, which expoſe me to all the Curſes of Thy law, to all Thy Judgments temporal or ſpiritual in this life, and to all the Horrors, the Deſpair and Torments of the Damned in the life to come!

Miſerable wretch that I am!—that ever I ſhould tranſgreſs that law of Thine, O God, which is ſo juſt, ſo holy, and good; ſo perfect, and condeſcending to my infirmities; and in the keeping of which there are ſuch great, ſuch inconceivable rewards!

Oh! that with *Mary Magdalen* I could weep much, and love much, having ſo much to be forgiven. *Luke* vii 38.

O gracious Lord, look on me, as thou didſt on *Peter*; and let thy compaſſionate looks ſo pierce my heart, that I may weep bitterly for my ſins. *Luke* xxii. 61.

O Lord God, break this hard heart, for Thou only canſt ſoften and melt it into tears of contrition! Miſerable wretch that I am!—that I ſhould ſin ſo much, and yet grieve ſo little!

Woe is me!—that ever I ſhould offend ſo indulgent, ſo liberal, ſo tender a Father!—that ever I ſhould repay the infinite Love, the intolerable Sufferings of my Redeeming God, with nothing but ſuch ſins as occaſioned thoſe very Sufferings!—that ever I ſhould grieve the Divine, the Holy Spirit of my God, by rejecting or ſtifling thoſe good Motions,

tions, from whence alone I derive Grace and Conſolation!

O Lord God, every ſlight wordly trouble is apt to draw plenty of tears from mine eyes; but when I would weep for my ſins, which are the greateſt calamities that can poſſibly befal me, either mine eyes are dry, or my tears too few, to bewail ſo many provocations!

O Bleſſed Spirit, inſtill true penitent ſorrow into my ſoul; make *my head waters*, and *my eyes fountains of tears*; or do Thou ſupply the want of them with *ſighs and groans unutterable!* *Rom.* viii. 26.

IV. The Resolution.

O Lord God, with ſhame I confeſs, that other Lords beſides Thee have hitherto had Dominion over me. *Iſa.* xxvi.

I have been in the ſnare of the Devil, and have been led captive by him; ſin hath reigned in my mortal body, and I have obeyed it in the luſts thereof; but henceforth I reſolve to ſerve none but Thee: from this very moment I utterly forſake all my ſins, and turn to Thee. 2 *Tim.* ii *Rom.* vi.

O my God, I do from my heart renew my Baptiſmal Vow, which alas! I have hitherto ſo often violated: I do for ever renounce the Devil, and all his works, and all his temptations: I do for ever renounce all the vanities of this wicked world, which would prevent me from Thy ſervice; and do heartily relinquiſh all the ſinful luſts of the fleſh,

O my God, I do ſtedfaſtly believe all the Articles of the Chriſtian Faith, and will keep thy holy Will and Commandments, and walk in the ſame all the days of my life.

All this I am bound to do and believe, and by Thy help ſo I will; and I heartily thank Thee, O Heavenly Father, who haſt called me to this ſtate of Salvation, through Jesus Christ my Saviour;

and I humbly beſeech Thee to give me Grace, to continue in the ſame to my life's end.

V. The Oblation.

Bleſſed be Thy Name, O Lord God, who haſt ſet before me life, and death, and haſt bid me chuſe life.

Behold, Lord, I do with all my heart chuſe life, I chuſe Thee, O my God; for thou art the Life, and, if I love and obey Thee, *my Life*.

Save, Lord, and hear me, O King of Heaven; and accept my Sacrifice, even the ſacrifice of my *whole Heart*, which I now give to Thee.

O my God, I offer Thee my Senſes and Paſſions, and all my Faculties: I offer Thee all my Deſires, all my Deſigns, and all the endeavours of my future life; all that I have, or am, I offer up all entirely to Thy Service.

Lord, ſanctify me wholly, that my whole ſpirit, ſoul and body, may become Thy Temple. O do Thou dwell in me, and be Thou my God, and I will be *Thy Servant*. Amen, Amen. 1 *Cor.* vi.

VI. Acts of Charity.

O Lord God, I do from henceforth reſolve to love my Neighbour as myſelf, and to love him not in word only, but in deed and in truth. *John* i. 3.

I do from my heart forgive all men their Treſpaſſes: —Do Thou, Lord, forgive them alſo.

Lord, bleſs them that hate me, and do good to them that have any-way deſpitefully uſed me: O repay them Good for Evil.

O my God, bleſs all thoſe whom I have any-way wronged; have Mercy on all thoſe to whoſe Sins I have been any-way acceſſary, and give them all grace to forgive me. *Amen*.

X.

A needful Prayer after the above Acts of Repentance and Amendment.

O Moſt great and glorious MAJESTY of Heaven and Earth; Who art of unſpotted purity, and in Whom there is not the leaſt ſhadow of change: I have contemplated and adored the lovelineſs of Thy Image, as diſplayed in wiſdom, righteouſneſs and true holineſs; I have implored Thy renewing Grace as the greateſt bleſſing I can receive from Thee; I have acknowledged moſt heartily the goodneſs and juſtice of all Thy Laws; I have loathed my own vileneſs in departing from them; and have bound myſelf in the moſt ſolemn manner, to become henceforward, Thy faithful Servant in Love and Obedience. Expecting no pardon but in the ways of virtue and godlineſs; hoping for a bleſſed Immortality, only by patient continuance in well doing, I have expreſsly renounced in ſpirit all thoughts and deſires which are contrary thereunto; and formally reſolved that holineſs and eternal life ſhall be my chief deſign and ſtudy, whilſt in this world:—Grant me herein, BLESSED LORD, eſpecial aid and aſſiſtance; for *without Thee, I can do nothing:* Give me ground to hope, that by Thy Grace I ſhall never contradict myſelf, by diſowning in my practice, theſe free and ſerious profeſſions: But that I ſhall every day ſo call to mind my own proteſtations and reſolutions as to proceed with unwearied diligence in ſtedfaſt obedience to Thy Commands, growing continually in Thy Grace and heavenly Benediction.

O that every ſuch addreſs as this unto Thy DIVINE MAJESTY, may leave upon my heart and mind a ſtronger ſenſe of Thee, of mine own duty and happineſs, of my manifold obligations and repeated promiſes. Aſſiſt me, good LORD, I humbly beſeech

ſeech Thee, ſo conſtantly from above, that whatſoever good thoughts are at any time in my mind, they may grow to fixed principles: that all heavenly affections may become a new nature, and the conſtant temper of my ſpirit: that all my purpoſes and reſolutions may advance into a ſerious practice and exerciſe of godlineſs: and that, through Thy Divine Aid, all my future actions of an honeſt and good life may grow more and more free, cheerful, vigorous and full of delight, till they be completed in everlaſting Bliſs! *Amen.*

XI.

GROUNDS IN SCIPTURE FOR HOPES of PARDON.

I. *From the Mercifulneſs of* GOD.

WILT Thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt Thou purſue the dry ſtubble? *Job* xiii. 25.

Will the LORD caſt off for ever? and will He be favourable no more?

Is His mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promiſe fail for evermore?

Hath GOD forgotten to be gracious? has He in anger ſhut up His tender mercies?

And I ſaid, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the MOST HIGH.

I will remember the works of the LORD, ſurely I will remember Thy wonders of old. *Pſalm* lxxvii. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Thou haſt always been a GOD forgiving iniquity, tranſgreſſion, and ſin. *Exod.* xxiv. 6, 7.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, He will not always chide, neither will He keep His anger for ever. *Pſalm* ciii. 8, 9.

Who is a GOD like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity;

quity? He retaineth not His anger for ever, becauſe He delighteth in mercy. *Mic.* vii. 18.

II. *From Promiſes to the Penitent.*

When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedneſs that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he ſhall ſave his ſoul alive.

Becauſe he conſidereth, and turneth away from his tranſgreſſions that he hath committed, he ſhall ſurely live, he ſhall not die. *Ezek.* xviii. 27, 28.

For with the LORD there is mercy, and plenteous redemption. *Pſalm* cxxx. 3, 4, 7.

He will not break the bruiſed reed, nor quench the ſmoaking flax. *Iſa.* xliii. 3.

He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are but duſt; and pitieth thoſe that fear Him, as a father pitieth his own children. *Pſalm* ciii. 13, 14.

Go, ſays HE, and ſin more, then will not I condemn thee. *John* viii. 11.

Behold, the Devil ſhall caſt ſome of you into Priſon, that ye may be tried; and ye ſhall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. *Rev.* ii. 10.

III. *From the Acceptableneſs of an humble Spirit.*

The humble publican ſtanding afar off, would not ſo much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but ſmote upon his breaſt, ſaying, GOD be merciful to me a ſinner!

I tell you, ſays our LORD, this man went down to his houſe juſtified, rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himſelf ſhall be abaſed, and he that humbleth himſelf ſhall be exalted. *Luke* xviii. 13, 14.

To this man will I look, even to him that is poor, and of a contrite ſpirit, and trembleth at my word. *Iſa.* lxvi. 2.

I dwell with him that is of a contrite and humble ſpirit

ſpirit, to revive the ſpirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. *Iſa.* lvii. 15.

He helpeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. *Pſalm* cxlvii. 3.

XII.

Petition for Pardon.

O Thou Father of Mercies, and God of all Conſolation, be merciful to me a miſerable Sinner.

Lord, remember all thy gracious calls of ſinners to Repentance, all thy proteſtations, that Thou delighteſt not in the death of him that dies, and that Thou wouldeſt have all to be ſaved. *Ezek.* xviii. 32. 1 *Tim.* ii. 4.

Lord, remember all the exceeding great and precious promiſes, which Thou haſt made to penitent Sinners.

Lord, remember that Thy Mercy is over all Thy works; that in Mercy Thou delighteſt; that all the holy Angels ſeeing Thee well-pleaſed in the exerciſe of that Mercy, rejoice at the converſion of a ſinner; and that the greater my ſins are, the more will that Mercy be magnified in my Forgiveneſs. *Luke* xv. 10.

All this, Lord, do I plead, to implore Thy Forgiveneſs.

Behold, Lord, though my failings are many, yet to the utmoſt of my power, I have confeſſed, bewailed, and forſaken my tranſgreſſions. Behold, Lord, I come at Thy call, and I come weary and heavy laden with the burden of my ſins: Be it unto me according to Thy Word. O Thou who art faithful and juſt, forgive me my ſins, and cleanſe me from all unrighteouſneſs. Lord, do Thou in no wiſe caſt me from Thee, but heal my back-ſlidings, and love me freely; eaſe me of my burden that I may find reſt

reſt in Thee; and ſay unto my ſoul, *Be of good cheer, thy ſins are forgiven thee. Matt.* xi. 28. 1 *John* i. 9. *John* vi. 36. *Hoſ.* xiv. 4.

XIII.

A THANKSGIVING FOR THE HOPES OF PARDON.

THe bruiſed reed, O LORD, Thou haſt not broken, nor quenched the ſmoaking flax. *Matt.* xii. 20.

Thou haſt reſtored unto me the joy of Thy Salvation, and upheld me with Thy free Spirit.

Thou haſt made me to hear of joy and gladneſs, that the bones which Thou haſt broken may rejoice. *Pſalm* li. 8, 12.

I ſaid, I will confeſs my tranſgreſſions unto the LORD, and Thou forgaveſt the iniquity of my ſin.

For this, ſhall every one that is godly pray unto Thee, in a time when Thou mayeſt be found. *Pſalm* xxxii. 5, 6.

Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.

The LORD hath heard my ſupplication, the LORD will receive my prayer. *Pſalm* vi. 8 9.

For he he hath looked down from the height of His Sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth;

To hear the groaning of the Priſoner, to looſe thoſe that are appointed to death.

He will regard the prayer of the deſtitute, and not deſpiſe their prayer.

And this ſhall be written for the generation to come; and the people which ſhall be created, ſhall praiſe the LORD. *Pſalm* cii. 17 *to* 20.

Saying, AMEN: bleſſing, and glory, and wiſdom, and Thankſgiving, and honour, and power, and might be unto OUR GOD for ever and ever. Amen. *Rev.* vii. 12, 13.

XIV.

XIV.

Required in Scripture, That Repentance be productive of its proper Fruits.

BRING forth fruits meet for Repentance. *Matt.* iii. 8.

Break off thy ſins by righteouſneſs, and thine iniquities by ſhewing mercy to the poor. *Dan.* iv. 27.

For he ſhall have judgment without mercy, who hath ſhewed no mercy; but mercy rejoiceth againſt judgment. *James* ii. 13,

If the wicked reſtore the pledge, give again that he hath robbed, and walk in the ſtatutes of life, without committing iniquity; none of his ſins ſhall be mentioned to him, he ſhall ſurely live, he ſhall not die. *Lev.* vi. 2, 3, 4, 5. *Ezek.* xxxiii. 15, 16.

If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remembereſt, that thy brother hath ought againſt thee;

Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way, firſt be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. *Matt.* v. 23, 24.

Forgive, and you ſhall be forgiven. *Luke* vi. 37.

If ye forgive men their treſpaſſes, your Heavenly Father will alſo forgive you.

But if ye forgive not men their treſpaſſes, neither will your Father forgive your treſpaſſes. *Matt.* vi. 14, 15.

Then, as to this ſelf-ſame thing, *That ye ſorrowed after a godly ſort:*—Behold! what carefulneſs it wrought in you; yea, what clearing of yourſelves; yea, what indignation; yea, what fear; yea, what vehement deſire; yea, what zeal; yea, what revenge, or puniſhing of yourſelves. 2 *Cor.* vii. 11.

Go, and do thou likewiſe. *Luke* x. 37.

XV.

XV.

THE CONSEQUENT PETITIONS.

1. *For Grace in general.*

O LORD GOD, I have ſworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep Thy righteous judgments. *Pſalm* cxix.

But, alas! I am able of myſelf to do nothing which is good, not ſo much as to think one good thought; and I no ſooner ſhall riſe from my knees, than I fear I ſhall be tempted again to thoſe very ſins which I have now moſt ſolemnly renounced; and thoſe Temptations will certainly overcome me, unleſs Thou, LORD, doſt ſeaſonably interpoſe Thy Grace to with-hold me.

But I can do all things through Thee ſtrengthening me: Do Thou then, O BLESSED SAVIOUR, perfect Thy Strength in my weakneſs; for in thee alone is my Truſt. *Phil.* iii.

O my GOD, Thou haſt promiſed to give Thy HOLY SPIRIT to thoſe who aſk it *(a)*. Behold, LORD, I do humbly, I do now earneſtly aſk Thy HOLY SPIRIT of Thee: O fulfil Thy gracious promiſe to me: O vouchſafe me that HOLY SPIRIT I pray for, to purify my corrupt nature; to ſtrengthen my weakneſs; to comfort me in troubles; to ſupport me in diſcouragements; to ſuccour me in temptations; and to aſſiſt me in all parts of my duty: That I may ever hereafter live in Thy Fear, and in conſtant, ſincere, and univerſal Obedience to all Thy righteous Laws.

Thou, O SEARCHER OF HEARTS, knoweſt the Sins to which I am moſt inclined *(Here name them;)* and herein will lie my greateſt danger of backſliding: But, O my GOD, I beg a double portion of Thine inviſible Aid againſt them: Hold Thou up my goings in

(a) Luke xi. 3.

in Thy Paths, that my footſteps ſlip not. O work in me that *victorious Faith*, (b) by which I may overcome the world, the Devil, and my own corrupt nature.

True it is, O LORD GOD, that there are many ſins, which upon examination, I find, through Thy Grace, I have not yet committed; and therefore not unto me, LORD, but to Thy Name be the glory. But alas! there is in my corrupt nature ſo great a proneneſs to Evil, ſo great a curioſity to try what Sin is, that without Thy reſtraining Grace, every Temptation, when I ſhall again have more liberty and opportunity to enforce it, will be apt to draw me from my Obedience, and to overthrow all my preſent Reſolutions.

But my help ſtandeth in Thee, O GREAT CREATOR, who haſt made heaven and earth; and I commit my ſoul to thy Keeping. O thou who art faithful, as well as Almighty, keep that ſafe which is committed to Thy Truſt; watch over me, that I may not again be beguiled by the deceitfulneſs of ſin, be betrayed by my own treacherous heart, or ſurpriſed by my ſpiritual Enemies; and give me grace to watch and to pray inceſſantly myſelf, leſt I enter into Temptation. Hear, LORD, from Heaven, and ſuccour me for Thy Mercy's ſake. Amen.

II. *For particular Graces, or heavenly Diſpoſitions and Virtues.*

O that my ways, LORD, were made ſo direct, that I might keep Thy Statutes! For then ſhall I not be confounded, when I have reſpect unto all thy Commandments. *Pſalm* cxix.

Vouchſafe me Thy HOLY SPIRIT therefore, O LORD GOD, to work in me whatever is well pleaſing in

(b) 1 *John* v. 4.

in Thy ſight, that, for the time to come, I may bring forth fruits meet for repentance.

O let it be Thy good Pleaſure to create in me a ſaving knowledge of thee, and of my duty; juſtifying faith, and ſanctifying grace; a purifying hope; an ardent love, and a filial fear of Thee; a conſtant deſire of pleaſing Thee, and a great tenderneſs of offending Thee.

LORD, create in me a penitent heart; a reſigned will; mortified affections; habitual mindfulneſs of Thy Preſence; a ſteady devotion in my prayers; ſincere intentions and zeal for Thy Glory; perſeverance in all holy purpoſes; and conſtancy in all trials and temptations.

LORD, create in me a reverential awe of Thy Name; a delight in Thy Service; a ſecret regard to Thy Day and Houſe of Prayer; a great attention to Thy Word; a daily care of my time, and diligence in my calling.

LORD, make me chaſte and temperate, humble and adviſeable, and patient of reproof; create in me a cheerful and meek, a contented and conſiderate, a quiet and peaceful ſpirit.

LORD, bleſs me with ſuch a meaſure of health and of temporal good things, as Thou ſeeſt fit for me; and give me grace to make a right uſe of all thoſe bleſſings which I have already received.

LORD, purify my thoughts, bridle my tongue, guide all my actions, guard all my ſenſes, ſtop my ears, and turn my eyes from Sin and Vanity.

LORD, give me grace to be juſt in all my dealings; to do to all men as I would they ſhould do unto me; to be ſubject to all my Superiors; to the King as Supreme, and to all Civil Magiſtrates; to the Paſtors of Thy Church, and to all Governors in *this Place*: O grant that I may render due honor and obedience to them all in their ſeveral ſtations.

LORD, make me willing to forgive injuries, and unwilling to offer any; make me grateful to my be-

 nefactors;

neſactors; friendly to my equals; condeſcending to my inferiors; compaſſionate to the afflicted; charitable in deed and in truth; a lover of good men, and even kind to my enemies: Give me grace to keep henceforward a conſcience void of offence towards Thee, and towards men, when I ſhall again bear an active part in the open world.

O MERCIFUL GOD, keep Thy Servant from all wilful, deliberate, or preſumptuous ſins, and let not wickedneſs have dominion over me.

From ſtubbornneſs and pride, idleneſs and ſloth, intemperance and ſinful luſts, inconſtancy and lying, good LORD, deliver me.

From irreligious principles, unruly paſſions, and violent temptations; from contracting vicious habits, or taking pleaſure in them; from profaneneſs and evil company, envy and malice, detraction and uncharitableneſs, good LORD, deliver me.

From the errors and vices of the age, and from all affections to ſin; from the particular ſins, to which my corrupt nature is inclined *(Here name them)*; from whatever is offenſive to Thee, and deſtructive to my own ſoul, good LORD, deliver me.

Hear me, O HEAVENLY FATHER, according to the full meaning of that moſt perfect form of prayer, which Thou Thyſelf haſt taught us:

—Our FATHER which art in Heaven; hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven: Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us; And lead us not into temptatation, But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

XVI.

Practical Directions.

I. *For the reading of the Holy Scriptures.* *

TO make your reading of the Divine Word the more profitable to you, begin with ſome ſuch ſhort Prayers as theſe:

Lord, open mine eyes, that I may ſee the wonderful things of Thy Law.

O Heavenly Father, I humbly beg Thy Holy Spirit ſo to help me at this time to read and underſtand, and to remember and practiſe Thy Holy Word, that it may make me wiſe unto Salvation!

When

* Priſoners, theſe Directions are here inſerted with a particular view to your edification in the Sunday-School, now eſtabliſhed within your Priſon. They will, however, be equally uſeful and proper, whenever you ſit down to read the Word of God; whether in your private Cells, your ſeparate Wards, or in your own families, when it ſhall have pleaſed God to releaſe you from your preſent Confinement.

Let me here ſpeak a word to you on the benefits which were deſigned you by the laudable inſtitution of your Sunday-School. It was not expected, that ſuch as had never been previouſly taught, ſhould thereby become readers. Nor was it preſumed, that much improvement could, within the ſhort time of uſual confinement, be added even to thoſe who might be already able to read a little. The Directors of your Priſon, reflecting upon the age of the greater part of you, and upon the untractable diſpoſition of many, formed no ſuch vain expectations. But, being ſenſible, that, in the lower ranks of men eſpecially, Idleneſs and a want of religious Principles are the grand ſource of all vice and wickedneſs, conſequently of preſent and eternal miſery; they thought it conſiſtent with their other plans for promoting your everlaſting happineſs, to appoint, not only Labor on week-days, as an antidote againſt Idleneſs, but alſo a religious employment on Sundays, which, with the bleſſing of God, might be inſtrumental in forming in your minds ſuch Principles for the regulation of your future conduct, as might be conducive to the ſaving of your immortal Souls.

Such being their deſign, the manner in which they would have you employed during School-hours, in order to accompliſh it, is

When you are thus prepared, then begin to read; and conſider, that it is GOD's moſt HOLY WORD you read; and that all the while you are reading, GOD is SPEAKING to you: Therefore read with attention and humility; and endeavour, as much as you can, to ſuit your affections to the Subject you read.

For inſtance; if you read any of GOD's Commands, they ſhould excite in you a zeal to keep them.

If you read any of GOD's Threatenings againſt ſinners, or His Judgments on them, they ſhould excite in you a Fear to offend Him.

When you read any of His gracious Promiſes, they ſhould encourage and quicken your Obedience.

When you read any of GOD's Mercies, they ſhould excite you to Thankſgiving.

When you read any great Myſtery recorded in HOLY SCRIPTURE, you are to proſtrate *your own Reaſoning* to DIVINE REVELATION.

And, for this purpoſe, in the midſt of your reading, ſay—

LORD, give me grace to *obey* this Command. *Or.*

LORD, *deliver* me from this Sin; *or*, this Judgment. *Or.*

LORD, I *rely* on this good Promiſe. *Or.*

Glory

ſimply this: They who can read, or have a probability of learning, ſhould read regularly ſuch portions of Scripture and of other religious books, as may be judged moſt proper: They who cannot read, and whoſe term of confinement affords no proſpect of their learning, ſhould attend in the School to hear others read, and ſhould be particularly attentive to the great Truths which they hear, as well as to the practical remarks occaſionally offered by the Maſters.

In proportion as you are faithful in the diſcharge of theſe Duties, the benevolent deſign of your Friends will be anſwered. One benefit will be certain: Such as are more vile amongſt you will be hereby prevented from prophaning the whole of the LORD's DAY by wicked, malicious, or indecent converſation; and they who are more orderly and better diſpoſed, may read their Bibles without danger of being ridiculed by the reſt:—an advantage which alone muſt render your School peculiarly uſeful and proper.

Glory be to Thee, O LORD, for this Mercy. *Or.* LORD, I *believe* and adore this Divine Myſtery.

Say any of theſe, according as it beſt agrees with the Subject you read; and when you have read as much as conveniently you can, conclude with theſe ſhort Prayers.

Bleſſed be Thou, O LORD; O teach me Thy Statutes! *Pſalm* cxix.

LORD, make Thy WORD a lantern unto my feet, and a light unto my paths!

LORD, make Thy WORD my Delight and my Counſellor!

II. *For the Conquering of any known Evil, or Sin.* *

I. FEAR IT.—The firſt ſtep to to be made, is to be apprehenſive of that Evil to which you are moſt ſubject. It appears to you it may be, but as a trifle, a matter of ſmall conſequence: Alas! there are many, who made the ſame judgment as you do, and who, giving themſelves little or no concern to get rid of a bad paſſion to which they were moſt inclined, have thereby been betrayed into many deplorable crimes; and their unhappy fall has proved ſometimes irrecoverable. That little paſſion to which you begin to

* Theſe Directions ſhould be particularly attended to; and, with the bleſſing of GOD, they may be ſingularly uſeful to you, when you come out again into the open world, where you will have repeatedly to encounter all your former ſeducing allurements to ſin; and where, being tempted both from within and from without, you will be in great danger of relapſing into your old Tranſgreſſions, and conſequently of ſinking into that dreadful ſtate deſcribed by our LORD in the following words.—"When the unclean ſpirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, ſeeking reſt, and findeth none. Then he ſaith, I will return into my houſe from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, ſwept, and garniſhed. Then goeth he and taketh with himſelf ſeven other ſpirits more wicked than himſelf, and they enter in, and dwell there: And THE LAST STATE OF THAT MAN IS WORSE THAN THE FIRST."

be ſubject; that liberty you indulge of gratifying your ſenſes in hearing, ſeeing, and touching every thing which pleaſes you; that vanity which already takes poſſeſſion of your heart, and which diſpoſes you on all occaſions to prefer yourſelf before others:—Alas! you ought to fear leſt theſe paſſions in the bud ſhould in a ſmall time blow and flouriſh; leſt little ſins become great ones, and in the iſſue prove the deplorable ſource of your ruin and eternal Deſtruction. To prevent ſo diſmal a ſtate, you muſt be always upon your guard, and muſt live under a conſtant ſenſe of thoſe dreadful Evils, to which the particular corruption of your nature expoſes you.

II. Resist it.—It is not enough to dread the evil conſequences of a bad paſſion; we muſt likewiſe take all occaſions ſo to reſiſt and oppoſe it, that it may not get the better of us by making us do whatever it ſuggeſts. For if we do not deny it the gratification it requires, it will quickly gain ground upon us, and fortify itſelf to ſuch a degree, that the conqueſt will be more difficult, if we are ever ſo happy as to overcome it.—How comes it to paſs that anger, revenge, and diſhoneſty, diſſipation or covetouſneſs, prevail as much upon you now, as they did ten years ago? Alas! you give no *check* to theſe paſſions: You are provoked againſt a perſon who ſhocks you; and, inſtead of reſiſting your anger, and moderating your paſſion, you give way to it, and ſay all the injurious things you can think of againſt the perſon who offends you. Company and liquor tempt you to drink to exceſs: Inſtead of denying your appetite, and reſiſting the offer, you comply with both; ſo that you immediately perform what the temptation ſuggeſts to you. And after the ſame manner you practice, in relation to other vices. What wonder therefore, if you are always ſubject to a vice which you have never reſolution enough to oppoſe!

But

But there is a ſtill greater inconveniency; which is, that you are not only ſubject to the ſame vice continually, which you do not reſiſt, but you daily become *more ſubject to it:* The habit of the ſin grows ſtronger, and by freqently repeated acts is ſo rooted in you, that it becomes almoſt impoſſible to conquer it. Thus you may ſee how important a matter it is to reſiſt that Sin which ſo eaſily beſets you.

III. FLY FROM IT.—Your ſpiritual Enemies are ſo dangerous, that it is always ſafer to avoid meeting with them, than to expoſe yourſelf to the hazard of being overcome. I ſhould do you no inconſiderable piece of ſervice, If I could thoroughly convince you, *That the perſon who expoſes himſelf to the occaſion of ſinning, is half conquered; and that among thoſe who truſt themſelves in dangerous circumſtances, very few eſcape.* We are ſo weak of ourſelves, temptatations are ſo ſtrong, and we have ſo great a bias to that which is evil, that if we *add* to this an OCCASION OF SINNING, how difficult will be our eſcape?

IV. PRAY AGAINST IT.—In vain we attempt the conqueſt of any vice, without ſtrength from above. And ſince by your own experience you find it a difficult work, you cannot be too earneſt for the help and aſſiſtance of GOD'S GRACE;—particularly when you approach the Altar, to eat the Bread of Life and to drink the Cup of Salvation, pray that the virtue of that heavenly Communion may extend to the Sin which doth moſt eaſily beſet you, that it may ſtrengthen your reſolutions, and fortify your ſoul in the day of trial. Let the dreadful conſequences of ſin be frequently the ſubject of your meditations, that your mind being thoroughly impreſſed with a greater horror of the vice to which you are moſt ſubject, you may be leſs liable to commit it for the future.

V. EXAMINE

V. EXAMINE YOURSELF OFTEN.—Serious reflection upon ourſelves often repeated, is an admirable inſtrument of Reformation. By this mean, no vice can make any conſiderable progreſs without being diſcovered: This gives us an occaſion to conſider the falſe ſteps we have made, the circumſtances which have been the cauſe of them, and the remedies which are moſt proper to be applied for their cure. —Theſe remedies have been preſcribed above, and indeed run throughout the whole of this Manual.

VI. PERSEVERE.—The perſeverance I would recommend, conſiſts in the conſtant uſe of the means herein offered you; and in not following the example of many, who after a ſhort trial of the remedies preſcribed, deſiſt from their uſe, and in a week's time, entirely neglect the directions which have been given. It further conſiſts in not being diſcouraged by any advantage the Enemy may gain over us; and, notwithſtanding the faults we may have committed, in never letting go our hopes of amending them. For, it is one of the great artifices of the Devil, to perſuade the deluded Sinner, that it is but loſt labor to attempt the amendment of his life; that his recovery is impoſſible; and that his evil habits are too deeply rooted to be conquered. Never give heed to this lying Spirit, but raiſe your courage to do your Duty better for the time to come.

I ſhall conclude theſe reflections, by laying before you a deſcription of thoſe methods which the infernal Adverſary uſes for your deſtruction. He firſt attacks you by bad thoughts, and then endeavours to make you pleaſed with them. After this firſt attack, his next attempt is to ſolicit your conſent to theſe bad thoughts; and from thence he ſtirs you up to put them in execution. From actions frequently repeated, he forms our evil habits; our evil habits bring upon us, as it were a neceſſity of ſinning; and this neceſſity

neceſſity brings forth death, the eternal death of the ſinner.—Your buſineſs therefore muſt be, to countermine his projects; 1. By reſiſting all evil thoughts, and by immediately caſting them out of your minds. 2. By not only denying your conſent, but by making an act contrary to the thought, proteſting to GOD that you will rather die than offend Him. 3. By never proceeding to commit the ſinful action, but by courageouſly oppoſing the Temptation, that you may obtain the crown of victory reſerved for all the faithful ſervants of GOD.

XVII.

FORMS OF VISITATION.

I. FOR PRISONERS IN GENERAL.

Sentences of Scripture.

BEHOLD, happy is the man whom GOD correcteth: therefore deſpiſe not thou the chaſtening of the ALMIGHTY. *Job* v. 17.

For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth, even as a father the ſon in whom he delighteth. *Prov.* iii. 12.

And whoſoever will not do the law of thy GOD, and the law of the King, let judgment be executed ſpeedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to baniſhment, or to confiſcation of goods, or to impriſonment. *Ezra* vii. 26.

Thine own wickedneſs ſhall correct thee, and thy backſlidings ſhall reprove thee: know therefore and ſee, that it is an evil thing and bitter that thou haſt forſaken the LORD thy GOD, and that My fear is not in thee, ſaith the LORD GOD OF HOSTS. *Jerem.* ii. 19.

Exhortation.

Exhortation.

Dearly beloved, know this, that ALMIGHTY GOD, Whoſe never-failing Providence governeth all things both in heaven and earth, hath ſo wiſely and mercifully ordered the courſe of this world, that his judgments are often ſent as fatherly corrections to us; and if with due ſubmiſſion and reſignation to His Holy Will we receive the ſame, they will work together for our good.

It is your part and duty therefore to humble yourſelves under the mighty hand of GOD, to acknowledge the righteouſneſs of His judgments, and to endeavour, that by His Grace, this preſent Viſitation may lead you to a ſincere and hearty Repentance.

The way and means thereto is, to examine your lives and and converſations by the rule of GOD's Commandments; and wherein-ſoever you ſhall perceive yourſelves to have offended either by will, word, or deed, there to bewail your own ſinfulneſs, and to confeſs yourſelves to ALMIGHTY GOD, with full purpoſe of amendment of life: And if you ſhall perceive your offences to be ſuch as are not only againſt GOD, but alſo againſt your Neighbours, then you ſhall reconcile yourſelves unto them, being ready to make reſtitution and ſatisfaction, according to the uttermoſt of your powers, for all injuries and wrongs done by you to any other; being likewiſe ready to forgive others who have offended you, as ye would have forgiveneſs of your offences at GOD's hand. And to this true repentance and change of mind you muſt add a lively and ſtedfaſt faith in the LORD your REDEEMER, a firm dependance upon the means of ſalvation preſcribed in the Holy Word, and an entire reſignation of yourſelves to the Divine Will. Except you repent, and believe, we can give you no hopes of ſalvation; but if you do ſincerely repent and believe, the LORD Himſelf hath declared, though your ſins be as ſcarlet, they ſhall be made white as ſnow; though

though your wickedneſses have gone over your heads, yet they ſhall not be your deſtruction.

We exhort you therefore in the Name of our merciful LORD AND SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST, that as you tender your own ſalvation, you will be circumſpect, and take good heed of theſe things in time, while the day of ſalvation laſteth; for the night cometh when no man can work. While you have the light, believe in the light, and walk as children of light. that you be not caſt into outer darkneſs; that you may not knock when the door ſhall be ſhut, and cry too late for mercy, when it is the time of juſtice. *Behold, now is the accepted time; now is the day of ſalvation. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your ſins may be blotted out, when the times of refreſhing ſhall come from the Preſence of the* LORD. †

Confeſſion.

O Almighty and moſt merciful LORD GOD, before Whom even the Angels in heaven fall proſtrate in deep humiliation; permit us, Thy ſinful creatures, to approach with humble and contrite hearts Thy heavenly Majeſty, to confeſs our manifold tranſgreſſions, and to implore Thy Divine Mercy. We acknowledge, O LORD, that we have not obeyed the precepts of Thy Holy Word, but have too much followed

† The Miniſter will here examine the Priſoners ſeparately concerning the fundamental Articles of their belief, and ſtate to them ſimply, and in as plain a manner as poſſible, what the Scriptures teach reſpecting the heinous nature of ſin, and the extent of the Divine Mercy and forgiveneſs. He will alſo examine whether they repent them truly of their paſt ſins, and be in charity with all mankind. He will admoniſh them particularly concerning the crimes wherewith they are reſpectively charged, and exhort them, if they have any ſcruples, to declare the ſame, and prepare themſelves for the Holy Communion, againſt the time appointed for it's adminiſtration. Then, all devoutly kneeling, he will proceed to read in the moſt ſolemn manner, the following Confeſſion, penitential Pſalm, and ſhort Deprecations and Prayers.

followed the perverſe inclinations of our own evil hearts, and eſtranged ourſelves from that true chriſtian life, which ſprings from Love to Thee, and Charity towards our Neighbour. Pardon, we beſeech Thee, our paſt offences, and grant us Grace for the future ſo to live, that by a dutiful obedience to Thy ſacred Commandments, and a ſteady perſeverance in the ways of Repentance and Amendment, we may in this world attain to ſpiritual Communion with Thee, and, in the world to come, be bliſsfully united to Thy eternal Love and Wiſdom. *Amen.*

PSAL. LI.

HAVE Mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindneſs: according unto the multitude of Thy tender Mercies blot out my tranſgreſſions.

2 Waſh me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanſe me from my ſin.

3 For I acknowledge my tranſgreſſions; and my ſin is everbefore me.

4 Againſt Thee, Thee only, have I ſinned, and done this evil in Thy ſight: that Thou mighteſt be juſtified when Thou ſpeakeſt, and be clear when Thou judgeſt.

5 Behold, I was ſhapen in iniquity: and in ſin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, Thou deſireſt truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou ſhalt make me to know wiſdom.

7 Purge me with hyſſop, and I ſhall be clean: waſh me, and I ſhall be whiter than ſnow.

8 Make me to hear of joy and gladneſs: that the bones which Thou haſt broken may rejoice.

9 Hide Thy face from my ſins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right ſpirit within me.

11 Caſt me not away from Thy preſence; and take not Thy holy ſpirit from me.

12 Reſtore

12 Reſtore unto me the joy of Thy ſalvation; and uphold me with Thy free ſpirit,

13 Then will I teach tranſgreſſors Thy ways; and ſinners ſhall be converted unto Thee.

14 Deliver me from blood-guiltineſs, O GOD, Thou GOD of my ſalvation: and my tongue ſhall ſing aloud of Thy righteouſneſs.

15 O LORD, open Thou my lips; and my mouth ſhall ſhew forth Thy praiſe.

16 For Thou deſireſt not ſacrifice; elſe would I give it: Thou delighteſt not in burnt-offering.

17 The ſacrifices of GOD are a broken ſpirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O GOD, Thou wilt not deſpiſe.

Short Deprecations.

Miniſter. LORD, have Mercy upon us.
Priſoners. CHRIST, *have Mercy upon us.*
Miniſter. LORD, have Mercy upon us.
OUR FATHER, Which art in Heaven, &c.
O LORD, ſhew Thy Mercy upon us.
Priſoners. *And grant us Thy Salvation.*
Miniſter. Turn Thy face from our ſins.
Priſoners. *And blot out all our iniquities.*
Miniſter. Send us help from Thy holy place.
Priſoners. *For the puniſhment of our ſins lieth heavy upon us.*
Miniſter. O LORD, hear our Prayer.
Priſoners. *And let the ſighing of the Priſoners come before Thee.*

Prayers. ‡

I.

O LORD, we beſeech Thee, mercifully hear our Prayers, and ſpare all thoſe who confeſs their ſins unto Thee; that they whoſe conſciences by ſin

‡ Here the Miniſter, as he ſhall ſee convenient, will read the Prayer for *All conditions of Men*, the Collect for *Aſh-Wedneſday*, and

are accuſed, by Thy merciful pardon may be abſolved, and purified from all iniquity both of heart and life, through the powerful operation of Thy Divine Mercy and Grace. *Amen.*

II.

GRANT we beſeech Thee, ALMIGHTY GOD, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deſerve to be puniſhed, by the comfort of Thy heavenly Grace, may mercifully be delivered, and reſcued into the glorious liberty of Thy redeemed children: Grant this, bleſſed LORD, of Thine infinite Love and Mercy towards poor afflicted Sinners. *Amen.*

III.

O Moſt mighty GOD, and merciful FATHER, Who haſt compaſſion upon all men, and hateſt nothing which Thou haſt made; Who wouldeſt not the death of a ſinner, but rather that he ſhould turn from his ſin, and be ſaved: Mercifully forgive us our treſpaſſes; receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our ſins. Thy property is always to have mercy; to Thee only it appertaineth to forgive ſins. Spare us therefore, good LORD, ſpare Thy people, whom Thou haſt redeemed; enter not into judgment with Thy ſervants, who are vile earth and miſerable ſinners; but ſo remove Evil from us, who meekly acknowledge our vileneſs, and truly repent us of our faults; and ſo make haſte to help us in this world, that we may finally be found amongſt the number of thoſe, who, "having come out of great tribulation, and having waſhed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, are before the throne of God, and ſerve Him day and night in His Temple."* *Amen.*

IV.

the Collect after the *Offertery* (beginning, "ALMIGHTY GOD *the Fountain of all Wiſdom*, &c."), or any other Prayer of the *Church-Liturgy* or of *this* Manual, which he ſhall judge proper.

* *Rev.* vii. 14 15.

IV.

O LORD, who ſpareſt when we deſerve puniſhment, and in all our ſalutary corrections remembereſt Mercy; we humbly beſeech Thee, of Thy Goodneſs, to comfort and ſuccour all thoſe who are under reproach and miſery in the houſe of bondage: Give them a right underſtanding of themſelves, and of Thy threats and promiſes, that they may neither caſt away their confidence in Thee, nor place it any-where but in Thee. Relieve the diſtreſſed, protect the innocent, and awaken the guilty: And, foraſmuch as Thou alone bringeſt light out of darkneſs, and good out of evil, grant that the pains and puniſhments which theſe Thy ſervants endure, through their bodily confinement, may tend to ſet free their ſouls from the chains of ſin. Say unto each of them, bleſſed JESUS, as Thou didſt unto *the woman whom Satan had bound, lo! eighteen years*, "THOU ART LOOSED FROM THINE INFIRMITY;"‖ Then ſhall they continually praiſe and glorify Thy Holy Name, throughout the boundleſs ages of Eternity. *Amen.*

V.

O Bleſſed LORD GOD, whoſe mercy is everlaſting and Power infinite, look down with pity and compaſſion upon the ſufferings of theſe Thy ſervants; and whether Thou viſiteſt for trial of their patience, or puniſhment of their offences, enable them by Thy Grace cheerfully to ſubmit themſelves to Thy holy Will and Pleaſure.

Go not far from thoſe, O LORD, whom Thou haſt laid in a place of darkneſs, and in the deep; and foraſmuch as Thou haſt not cut them off ſuddenly, but chaſteneſt them as a Father, grant, that they duly conſidering Thy great Mercies may be unfeignedly

‖ *Luke* xiii 12.

thankful; and turning unto Thee with true repentance and ſincerity of heart, may be finally received into thoſe heavenly manſions, where "they ſhall hunger no more, neither thirſt any more; for the Lamb which is in the midſt of the Throne ſhall feed them, and ſhall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and GOD ſhall wipe away all tears from their eyes."† *Amen, Amen.*

VI.

(Here let the Priſoners devoutly join.)

TURN Thou us, good LORD, and ſo ſhall we be turned. Be favourable, O LORD, be favourable to Thy ſinful creatures, who turn to Thee in weeping and prayer. For Thou art a merciful God, full of compaſſion, long-ſuffering, and of great pity. Thou ſpareſt when we deſerve puniſhment, And in all Thy fatherly corrections thinkeſt upon Mercy. Spare Thine afflicted creatures, good LORD, ſpare us, And let not the great Enemy of ſouls triumph in our deſtruction. Hear us, O LORD, for Thy Mercy is great, And after the multitude of Thy Mercies look favourably upon us "Turn us again, O LORD GOD OF HOSTS; cauſe Thy face to ſhine, and we ſhall be SAVED."* *Amen.*

Rom. xvi. 24.

The Grace of our LORD JESUS CHRIST be with you all. Amen.

II. FOR PERSONS UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH.‡

Sentences of Scripture.

SET thine houſe in order; for thou ſhalt die, and not live. *Iſaiah* xxxviii. 1.

Whoſo

† *Rev.* vii. 16, 17. * *Pſalm* lxxx. 19.

‡ The Service here added, is given with a particular view to render this little MANUAL more generally uſeful, ſhould it ever find it's way into thoſe Priſons where *ſuch a Form of Viſitation* is more immediately neceſſary. In the mean time, whatever reminds the

Whoſo ſheddeth man's blood, by man ſhall his blood be ſhed: for in the image of GOD made He man. *Gen.* ix. 6.

He that ſmiteth a man, ſo that he die, ſhall be ſurely put to death. *Exod.* xxi. 12.

And whoſoever WILL NOT DO THE LAW OF THY GOD, AND THE LAW OF THE KING, let judgment be executed ſpeedily upon him, whether it be unto DEATH, or to Baniſhment, or to Confiſcation of goods, or to Impriſonment. *Ezra.* vii. 26.

It is appointed unto men once to die, but *after this* THE JUDGMENT. *Heb.* ix. 27.

For we muſt all appear before the JUDGMENT-SEAT OF CHRIST, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done whether it be good or bad. II. *Corin.* v. 10.

Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

But I will forewarn you whom you ſhall fear: Fear Him who, after he hath killed, hath power to caſt into Hell; yea, I ſay unto you, Fear Him. *Luke* xii. 4, 5.

Exhortation.

Dearly Beloved, it hath pleaſed ALMIGHTY GOD, in His juſtice, to bring you under the ſentence and condemnation of the Law; you are ſhortly to ſuffer death in ſuch a manner, that others, warned by your example, may be the more afraid to offend; and we pray GOD, that you may make ſuch uſe of your puniſhments in this world, that your ſoul may be ſaved in the world to come.

Wherefore we come to you in the bowels of compaſſion; and, being deſirous that you ſhould avoid

culprit that "the wages of ſin is death," cannot want it's uſe, as a private Exerciſe, even in the PENITENTIARY-HOUSE alone.—Reader, take warning, leſt thou thyſelf fall under a like Condemnation.

presumption on the one hand, and despair on the other, shall plainly lay before you the wretchedness of your condition, and declare how far you may depend on the Mercies of the LORD your GOD.

Consider then seriously with yourself, in all appearance the time of your dissolution draweth near; your sins have laid fast hold upon you; you are soon to be removed from among men, by a violent death; and you shall fade away suddenly like the grass, which in the morning is green, and groweth up, but in the evening is cut down, dried up and withered. After you have thus finished the course of a sinful and miserable life, you shall appear before the JUDGE OF ALL FLESH; who, as he pronounces blessings on the righteous, shall likewise say, with the terrible voice of the most just Judgment, to the impenitent wicked, DEPART FROM ME, YE CURSED, INTO EVERLASTING FIRE, PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS.*

Your sins have brought you too near this dreadful sentence; it is therefore your part and duty, my Brother, humbly to confess and bewail your great and manifold offences, and repent you truly of your sins, as you tender the eternal salvation of your soul.

Be not deceived with a vain and presumptuous expectation of GOD's Favor; nor, say within yourself, "Peace, Peace," where there is no peace; for there is no peace, saith my GOD, to the wicked.—GOD is not mocked; He is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and without holiness no man shall see the LORD. On the other hand, despair not of GOD's Mercy, though trouble is on every side; for the LORD shutteth not up His Mercies for ever in displeasure; but if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, Do not either way abuse the Goodness of GOD, who calleth us mercifully to amendment, and of His endless Pity promiseth us forgiveness of that which

* *Matt.* xxv. 41.

which is paſt, if with a perfect and true heart we return unto Him.

Since therefore you are ſoon to paſs into an endleſs and unchangeable ſtate, and your future happineſs or miſery depends upon the few moments which are left you; I require you ſtrictly to examine how your heart ſtands affected both towards GOD, and Man. Let not any worldly conſiderations hinder you from making a true and full confeſſion of your ſins; and from giving all the ſatisfaction in your power to every one whom you have wronged or injured; that you may find Mercy at the hands of your HEAVENLY FATHER and not be condemned in the dreadful day of Judgment.

Laſtly, Beloved, ſubmit yourſelf with chriſtian reſignation to the juſt Judgment of GOD, which your own crimes have brought upon you. And be in charity with all Men; being ready ſincerely to forgive all ſuch as have offended you, not excepting thoſe who have proſecuted you even unto death; and, though this may ſeem a hard ſaying, yet know aſſuredly, that without it your charity is not yet perfect. Fail not then earneſtly to endeavour and pray for this bleſſed temper and compoſure of mind; ſo may you caſt yourſelf with an entire dependance upon the infinite Mercies of the LORD your GOD; "for, if ye forgive men their treſpaſſes, your heavenly Father will alſo forgive you. Wherefore, ye that fear the LORD, wait for his Mercy, and go not aſide leſt ye fall. Ye that fear the LORD, believe Him, and your reward ſhall not fail. Ye that fear the LORD, hope for good, and for everlaſting Joy and Mercy. Look at the generations of old, and ſee: Did ever any truſt in the LORD, and was confounded? or did any abide in His Fear, and was forſaken? or whom did He ever deſpiſe, that called upon Him? For the LORD is full of Compaſſion and Mercy, long-ſuffering, and very pitiful;

tiful; and forgiveth ſins, and ſaveth in time of affliction."‖ *Matt.* vi. 14. *Eccleſiaſticus* ii. 7 to 12.

Confeſſion.

My tranſgreſſions, O LORD, are multiplied: my tranſgreſſions are multiplied; and I am not worthy to behold and ſee the height of heaven, for the multitude of mine iniquities. I am bowed down with many iron bands, that I cannot lift up mine head; neither have any releaſe: for I have provoked Thy diſpleaſure, and done evil before Thee; I did not Thy Will, neither kept I Thy Commandments: I have ſet up abominations, and have multiplied offences. Wherfore my age is departed, and is removed from me as a ſhepherd's tent: I have cut off like a weaver my life. I ſhall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the reſidue of my years. I ſhall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world. My heart is ſore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. Fearfulneſs and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me. Give ear to my prayer, O GOD: and hide not Thyſelf from my ſupplication. Thou, O LORD, according to Thy great Goodneſs, haſt promiſed Repentance and Forgiveneſs to them that have ſinned againſt Thee: and of Thine infinite Mercies haſt appointed Repentance unto Sinners, that they may be ſaved. Now therefore, I bow the knee of mine heart, beſeeching Thee of Mercy and Grace: I have ſinned, O LORD, I have ſinned, and I acknowledge mine iniquities: Wherefore I humbly beſeech Thee

‖ Here the Miniſter having examined the Priſoner concerning his Faith and Repentance, will exhort him to a particular Confeſſion of the Sin for which he is condemned, before he proceeds to the following *Form of Confeſſion*. After Confeſſion he will inſtruct the Priſoner what ſatisfaction ought to be made to thoſe whom he has offended by his crime. And if he knoweth any combinations in wickedneſs, or any evil practices deſigned againſt others, let him be admoniſhed to the utmoſt of his power to diſcover and prevent them.

Thee, forgive me, O LORD, forgive me, and deſtroy me not with mine iniquities. Be not angry with me for ever, by reſerving evil for me; neither condemn me into the lower parts of the earth. For Thou art the GOD, even the GOD of them that repent: and in me,—wilt Thou not ſhe-wall Thy Goodneſs? wilt Thou not ſave me, who am unworthy, according to Thy great Mercy?—Speak, LORD, comfort to my afflicted ſoul; and diſmiſs me not to the regions of the dead, but with a peaceful and quiet conſcience; with a firm and well-grounded reliance on Thy faithful promiſes to the truly penitent; even to ſuch as I deſire ſincerely to be, before I go hence, and be no more ſeen.† *Amen, Amen.*

PSALM LXXXVIII.

O LORD GOD of my ſalvation, I have cried day and night before Thee.

2 Let my prayer come before Thee; incline Thine ear unto my cry

3 For my ſoul is full of troubles; and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.

4 I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no ſtrength.

5 Free among the dead, like the ſlain that lie in the grave, whom Thou remembereſt no more: and they are cut off from Thy hand.

6 Thou haſt laid me in the loweſt pit, in darkneſs, in the deeps.

7 Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and Thou haſt afflicted me with all Thy waves.

8 Thou haſt put away mine acquaintance far from me; Thou haſt made me an abomination unto them: I am ſhut up, and I cannot come forth.

9 Mine

† After this Confeſſion, which the Criminal ſhould devoutly and diſtinctly pronounce after the Miniſter, the Prayer for Abſolution inſerted at Page 43 (beginning, "O LORD, we beſeech Thee mercifully hear our prayers," &c.) may be here read with propriety.

9 Mine eye mourneth by reaſon of affliction: LORD, I have called daily upon Thee, I have ſtretched out my hands unto Thee.

10 Wilt Thou ſhew wonders to the dead; ſhall the dead ariſe, and praiſe Thee?

11 Shall Thy loving-kindneſs be declared in the grave? or Thy faithfulneſs in deſtruction?

12 Shall Thy wonders be known in the dark? and Thy righteouſneſs in the land of forgetfulneſs?

13 But unto Thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning ſhall my prayer prevent Thee.

14 LORD, why caſteſt Thou off my ſoul? why hideſt Thou Thy face from me?

15 I am afflicted and ready to die, from my youth up: while I ſuffer Thy terrors, I am diſtracted.

16 Thy fierce wrath goeth over me; Thy terrors have cut me off.

17 They came round about me daily like water; they compaſſed me about together.

18 Lover and friend haſt Thou put far from me, and mine acquaintance into darkneſs.

PSALM CXXX.

OUT of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O LORD.

2 LORD, hear my voice: let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my ſupplications.

3 If Thou, LORD, ſhouldeſt mark iniquities: O LORD, who ſhall ſtand?

4 But there is forgiveneſs with Thee: that Thou mayeſt be feared.

5 I wait for the LORD, my ſoul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

6 My ſoul waiteth for the LORD, more than they that watch for the morning: I ſay, more than they that watch for the morning.

7 Let Iſrael hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is Mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption.

8 And He ſhall redeem Iſrael from all his iniquities.

Prayers.

I.

O LORD ALMIGHTY, GOD OF MERCY, the ſoul in anguiſh, the troubled ſpirit crieth unto Thee. Hear, O LORD, and have mercy: for Thou art merciful; and have pity upon us becauſe we have ſinned before Thee. O LORD our GOD, we have ſinned, we have done ungodly, we have dealt unrighteouſly in all Thine ordinances. Hear our prayers, O LORD, and our petitions, and deliver us for Thine own ſake. Look down from Thy holy place, and conſider us: bow down Thine ear, O LORD, to hear us. Open Thine eyes, and behold, for the dead that are in the graves, whoſe ſouls are taken from their bodies, will give unto the LORD neither praiſe nor righteouſneſs: But the ſoul that is greatly vexed, which goeth ſtooping and feeble, and the eyes that fail, and the hungry ſoul will give Thee praiſe and righteouſneſs, O LORD.—Remember, O LORD, Thy tender mercies, and loving-kindneſſes: for they have been ever of old. Remember not the ſins of my youth nor my tranſgreſſions: according to Thy Mercy remember Thou me, for Thy Goodneſs' ſake, O LORD. Then, though I walk through the valley of the ſhadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou will be with me; Thy rod and Thy ſtaff ſhall comfort me. Thou ſhalt guide me with Thy counſel, and afterward receive me to glory, where I ſhall continually praiſe Thy mercies of redeeming Love: For all the Powers of the the heavens do praiſe Thee, and Thine is the Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II.

O FATHER of mercies, and GOD of comfort, we fly unto Thee for ſuccour in behalf of this Thy ſervant, who is now under the ſentence of condemnation.

tion. The day of his calamity is at hand, and he is accounted as one of them that go down into the pit. Bleſſed LORD, remember Thy mercies; look upon his infirmities; hear the voice of his complaint. Give him, we beſeech Thee, patience in this his time of adverſity, and ſupport under the terrors which encompaſs him. Set before his eyes the things he hath done in the body, which have brought upon him this ſevere puniſhment; and, forasmuch as his continuance appeareth to be ſhort amongſt us, quicken him ſo much the more by Thy Grace and Holy Spirit; that he, being converted and reconciled unto Thee, before Thy judgments have cut him off from the earth, may at the hour of his death depart in peace, be received with bleſſed *Lazarus* into *Abraham's* boſom, and be embraced like the returning Prodigal with the arms of Thine unutterable mercy, O Holy LORD JESUS, our REDEEMER and SANCTIFIER. *Amen.*

III.

O SAVIOUR of the world, Who by Thy Temptations and Sufferings, even unto the Death upon the Croſs, haſt redeemed us, ſave us and help us we humbly beſeech thee. O remember not againſt us former iniquities: Let Thy tender mercies ſpeedily prevent us; for we are brought very low. Help us, O GOD of our ſalvation, for the glory of Thy Name. Let the ſighing of the Priſoner come before Thee: According to the greatneſs of Thy power preſerve Thou thoſe that are appointed to die; and deliver us, and purge away our ſins for Thy Name's ſake. *Amen.*

IV.

IN the midſt of life we are in death; of whom may we ſeek for ſuccour, but of Thee, O LORD, Who for our ſins art juſtly diſpleaſed.

Yet, O LORD GOD moſt holy, O LORD moſt mighty, O holy and moſt merciful SAVIOUR, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knoweſt, LORD, the ſecrets of our hearts; ſhut not Thy merciful ears to our prayers; but ſpare us, LORD moſt holy, O GOD moſt mighty, O holy and merciful SAVIOUR, Thou moſt worthy JUDGE eternal, ſuffer us not at our laſt hour for any pains of death to fall from Thee.

V.

THE ALMIGHTY LORD, Who is a moſt ſtrong tower to all them that put their truſt in Him; to Whom all things in Heaven, in earth, and under the earth, do bow and obey; be now and ever thy defence; and make thee know, and feel that there is no other Name under heaven given to man, in Whom and through whom thou canſt receive eternal Salvation, but only the Name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST! —Unto His gracious mercy and protection we now commit thee. The LORD bleſs thee, and keep thee. The LORD make His face to ſhine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The LORD lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace both now and evermore. *Amen.*

III. FOR THE COMMUNION SERVICE.

The Collect.

O LORD GOD, Who declareſt Thy Almighty Power moſt chiefly in ſhewing mercy and pity, we beſeech Thee to have Mercy upon this Thy ſervant, who for his tranſgreſſions is appointed to die. Grant, that he may take Thy judgments patiently, and repent him truly of his ſins; that he may recover and retain Thy Divine Influence and Favor; that the fearful

reward of his actions may end with this life; and, whenſoever his ſoul ſhall depart from the body, that it may be found cleanſed and purified, through the powerful operation of Thy Divine Mercy and Truth, O bleſſed Lord Jesus, our only Redeemer from ſin and eternal miſery. *Amen.*

The Epiſtle. Heb. xii. *verſe* 11.

No chaſtening for the preſent ſeemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheleſs afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteouſneſs unto them which are exerciſed thereby.

The Goſpel. S. John, v. *verſe* 24.

Verily, verily, I ſay unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that ſent Me, hath everlaſting Life, and ſhall not come into condemnation; but is paſſed from death unto life.

¶ *At the time of execution.*‡

O Holy Jesus, Who of Thine infinite Goodneſs didſt accept the converſion of a ſinner on the croſs, open Thine eye of Mercy upon this Thy ſervant, who deſireth pardon and forgiveneſs, though in his lateſt hour he turneth unto Thee. Renew in him whatſoever hath been decayed by the fraud and malice of the devil, or by his own carnal will and frailneſs; conſider his contrition, accept his repentance; and, foraſmuch as he putteth his full truſt only in thy Thy mercy, impute not unto him his former ſins, but ſtrengthen him with Thy Bleſſed Spirit; and now Thou art pleaſed to take him hence, ſay unto his departing ſpirit, "To-day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise."—Hear, Lord, and have mercy on his Soul! *Amen.*

The

‡ This Prayer may be then added to ſuch Parts of the foregoing Service as the Miniſter ſhall judge proper.

(The criminal, when he gives the ſignal for his execution)

"LORD JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT!" *Amen.*

XVIII.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

I.

On coming into ſolitary confinement.

O ALMIGHTY LORD GOD, Who for my ſins haſt removed me from the ſociety of the world, and placed me in this ſolitude, grant that I may uſe this confinement in ſuch a manner as may beſt conduce to the ſaving of my ſoul. I am now ſenſible that I was undeſerving of the ſtation which I poſſeſſed among my fellow creatures, ſo long as I continued in the practice of ſin, even in the open violation of Thy ſacred Laws; and therefore I ought to be reſigned to my preſent ſituation. Yet, O Thou, who art good to all—be merciful to me, and reſtore me in due time to that Liberty which Thou giveſt to all men as a bleſſing. For ever after will I endeavour to be thankful for it, and by Thy Grace uſe it only in promoting the happineſs of others, and in fulfilling, to the utmoſt of my power, the ſeveral duties of ſocial life. Hear my prayer, O GOD OF ALL COMFORT, from this melancholy place, and accept the ſincerity of my penitent heart for Thy Mercy's ſake. *Amen.*

II.

For Patience and Reſignation.

O Moſt gracious GOD, let not the ſpirit of impatience poſſeſs me, whereby I may in any meaſure incur Thy diſpleaſure. Thou art my MAKER,

O let me not ſtrive with Thee; I am but the work of Thine hands, and therefore with Thee there is no contending. If I provoke Thee, by ſtruggling under the yoke of affliction, the end thereof will be gall to my mouth, and bitterneſs to my conſcience. But, O LORD, it is not my puniſhment Thou purſueſt after: it is my repentance and amendment of life; and what Thou art pleaſed to inflict upon me, is only to recal me to my duty; which, when I have perfectly learnt, I know Thou wilt fully reward and recompence my patience, that I may poſſeſs my own ſoul in the day of the LORD JESUS.

O Thou Who art the wiſe diſpoſer of all things, both in heaven and earth, let me look up to Thee, from whence cometh affliction, and then examine my own heart, where I ſhall find the real cauſe: O let nothing then ſeem to perplex me, which Thou, in Thy good pleaſure, knoweſt to be advantageous, but let me ever be content to drink of the bittereſt cup of affliction which Thou haſt allowed me. O let Thy good SPIRIT ſtill ſtrive with me, and draw me unto Thee with the cords of Thy Love. It is of Thy tender Mercies that I am not conſumed; but I know that Thy compaſſion fails not towards poor and wretched ſinners. LORD, give me grace to perform this duty, and to ſay of my affliction, as Thou, O JESUS, didſt of Thy bitter cup and paſſion—— FATHER, IF IT BE THY WILL, LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME: YET NOT MY WILL BUT THINE BE DONE. *Amen.*

III.

For a Priſoner under great Trouble of mind.

O BLESSED LORD, the Father of Mercies, and the GOD of all comfort; I beſeech Thee, look down with pity and compaſſion upon me Thine afflicted ſervant. Unto Thee do I cry for help, O Thou great Phyſician of Souls; uphold and comfort my weak and

and dejected ſpirit; ſtrengthen it againſt all inordinate fears and terrors; and deliver me from all thoſe unprofitable troubles and ſcruples of conſcience with which I am oppreſſed. I am conſcious, O LORD, that I deſerve this puniſhment for my paſt offences, and that I reap the juſt reward of my former iniquities: but I am heartily ſorry for having offended Thee, and truly repent of all my ſins; wherefore be merciful unto me, O gracious LORD, and cleanſe me from all mine iniquities, that I may ſerve Thee with a quiet mind the remainder of my days. Let my preſent uneaſineſs and diſorder make me humble and patient, and teach me to put my truſt and confidence in Thee. I entirely ſubmit to Thy bleſſed will, till Thou ſhalt think fit to remove the torment I groan under, beſeeching Thee, in the mean time, to enable me to bear it by the ſupport of Thy HOLY SPIRIT; and when I am prepared for ſo great a mercy, deliver me from my trouble; lift up the light of Thy countenance upon me, and give me peace, O moſt merciful LORD GOD, my SAVIOUR and REDEEMER. *Amen.*

IV.

For a young Priſoner who is deſtitute of Parents or Friends.

O LORD who never faileſt thoſe who ſeek Thee; but *giveſt to the beaſt his food, and to the young ravens which cry:* * I caſt myſelf upon Thine infinite Goodneſs, with whom the fatherleſs have been wont to find mercy. Be Thou, O LORD, *Father and God of my life,* † a moſt merciful and gracious Father unto me, and provide what Thou ſeeſt, in Thy Wiſdom, to be neceſſary for me.

* *Pſalm.* cxlvii. † *Eccle.* xxiii. 4.

Eſpecially, beſtow upon me, at my releaſe from this ſolitary confinement, ſome faithful friend who will admoniſh me, and take care of my ſoul, to bring me up religiouſly in the fear of Thee, my GOD Preſerve me from all diſtruſt of Thy Providence. Give me favor in the eyes of others, by an humble, ſubmiſſive and good behaviour towards them. Make me diligent and induſtrious in ſome honeſt calling. And bleſs my labors and endeavours, that I may not be a burden unto others. But whatever be my portion in this world, give me grace to live ſo piouſly, juſtly and ſoberly, that I may not miſs of that *incorruptible inheritance which fadeth not away, reſerved for us in the heavens!* ‡ *Amen.*

V.

For an old Offender.

O Moſt holy and righteous JUDGE of the whole world, give a ſinful and miſerable wretch leave to proſtrate himſelf before the Throne of Thy Grace, and to implore that Mercy which formerly I have deſpiſed or abuſed. I am not worthy, I confeſs, to lift up my eyes towards heaven; and it becomes me in the greateſt dejection of ſpirit to ſigh and groan under the load of my ſins:—which have been ſo great and many, ſo bold, ſo preſumptuous and ſhameleſs, that when with an awakened mind I reflect upon them, I am ready to ſink into Hell, and utterly deſpair of any Mercy!

O GOD, *how have I hated inſtruction, and my heart deſpiſed reproof? and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that admoniſhed me?* (a) How ſwift have my feet been to run into evil? and how backward and averſe have I been from any thing

‡ 1 *Pet.* i. 4. (a) *Prov.* v. 12. 13.

thing that is good? O the injuries which I have done my Neighbours! the abuſe of myſelf, and of Thy good creatures! the profane contempt of Thee and the duties of Thy worſhip and ſervice!—The remembrance of all this is dreadful, the burden of it intolerable!

Mercy, good LORD, Mercy!—How willingly would I hope it the beginning of ſome mercy, and an earneſt of more, that Thou haſt made me, at laſt, ſenſible of mine offences; and that Thou haſt wrought in me a reſolution to forſake them, and ſome love to a godly, ſober and righteous life. Help me to manifeſt the ſincerity and uprightneſs of my ſoul in theſe reſolutions, as much as I am able; by giving Thee hearty thanks that the hand of Juſtice hath overtaken and laid hold upon me, and put a ſtop to the further miſchief which I might have committed; by making an open and free confeſſion of my crimes, taking thereby, before others, the ſhame which belongs to me; by acknowledging that I am unworthy to live, and by earneſtly admoniſhing all, to be warned by my example, and to ceaſe betimes to do evil, and learn to do well.

Help me, O GOD, during my ſalutary confinement in this PENITENTIARY-HOUSE, to ſpend my time in bewailing my Sins; in humbling my ſoul for them before Thee; in ſetting my heart againſt them; in ſtudying to imitate henceforward Thy HOLY LIFE IN THE FLESH; in calling other offenders to repentance, and in exhorting them thereby to give Thee glory. Deny me not the grace, I beſeech Thee, to enable me thus to employ myſelf, that I may have ſome taſte of Thy Mercy, and be cheered by the reviving hope, that when my ſoul ſhall be parted from the body, Thou, O bleſſed JESUS, wilt receive it into the manſions of eternal Bliſs. *Amen, Amen.*

VI.

VI.

A Prayer for a happy Death.

O Moſt great and mighty God, in whoſe hands are the iſſues of life and death! Thou ordereſt all things by Thine infinite power and wiſdom, and haſt appointed for all men once to die; and after this ſhort life is ended, haſt, of Thine infinite Goodneſs, provided for Thy faithful ſervants a ſtate of endleſs Bliſs and Happineſs. O make me truly ſenſible of the frailty and uncertainty of my life; and teach me ſo to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto true wiſdom. Let not death ever ſurpriſe me unawares, or find me in a ſtate unprovided. But grant that I may live in ſuch a conſtant preparation for my latter end, and ſo diligently improve my time in this confinement, that how ſuddenly ſoever Thou ſhalt be pleaſed to take me out of this world, I may be found ready and prepared for that great account, which I muſt one day give before the JUDGMENT-SEAT OF CHRIST. Enable me, by the aſſiſtance of Thy Grace and Holy Spirit, to finiſh the great work of my Salvation before the night cometh when no man can work, and to lay up a good foundation of hope and comfort againſt the hour of my Death; that when the time of my departure ſhall come I may look back upon the fruits of my preſent confinement with joy and comfort, and may meet death without fear.

Look upon me, O moſt gracious GOD, when the time of my diſſolution draweth nigh, as a RECONCILED FATHER. Speak peace unto my conſcience, and ſay unto my ſoul, "I am the GOD of thy Salvation." Let not the cruel Enemy of Souls affrighten me with his terrors; but give Thy holy Angels charge over me, to keep me out of his hands, and let the comforts of Thy HOLY SPIRIT cheer and refreſh

freſh my ſoul, in it's paſſage through this vale of tears and miſery to a happy Eternity.

O LORD, leave me not to myſelf in that time of diſtreſs, when I ſhall ſtand ſo much in need of Thee. Confirm my faith; ſupport me in my dying agonies; and forſake me not when my ſtrength faileth. Let Thy merciful ears, O GOD, be then open to my prayers; and ſpare me, O LORD *moſt holy*, O GOD *moſt mighty*, O *holy and merciful* SAVIOUR, *Thou moſt worthy* JUDGE ETERNAL! ſuffer me not at my laſt hour, through any pains of body, or weakneſs of mind, to renounce my dependence upon Thee. But grant, O merciful FATHER, that with an humble reliance on Thy Mercies, and by an entire ſubmiſſion to Thy bleſſed Will, I may cheerfully reſign my ſoul into Thy hands, and may be willing and even deſirous to leave this world, when Thou, my GOD, in Thy great Wiſdom, ſhalt ſee it fitting.

O LORD, let me never be ſeparated from Thee: but grant that my ſoul may be ſo conjoined to Thee, who art the fulneſs of all happineſs, by the ſtrongeſt ties of faith, love and obedience; that after a life ſpent in Thy Service, I may dwell with Thee in the Life Everlaſting, and be received into thoſe manſions of eternal Bliſs and Glory, which Thou haſt prepared for them who truly love and fear Thee. *Amen.*

VII.

A preparatory Prayer for the Judgment to come.

O ALMIGHTY LORD GOD, who haſt appointed a day wherein Thou wilt bring all the world to Judgment, with every ſecret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil: make me to try my Soul, daily and hourly, at the bar of my own conſcience, that, accuſing and judging myſelf for my ſins and tranſgreſſions, and ſuffering patiently the ſentence of

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an earthly court, Thou mayeſt not condemn me at Thy dreadful Tribunal. LORD, let that remarkable day be often in my thoughts, that the fear of it and of Thee, may be ever before mine eyes. Give me an earneſt deſire, and a careful endeavour, to reform thoſe evil actions which have brought this impriſonment upon me; to direct all my ways, and to order the courſe of my future life, according to the rules and precepts of Thy holy Word. Let it be my utmoſt care and diligence, to have, for the time to come, a good conſcience in all things, and ſo to live, that, my life being approved by Thee, my death may be happy, and my appearance before Thee, in the day of Thy Coming, ſurrounded with joy and comfort. Grant, that the merit of Thy Death, and virtue of Thy Reſurrection; O BLESSED SAVIOUR, may both mortify all my ſinful and corrupt affections, and raiſe me to the life of righteouſneſs; that dying to ſin, and governed here by Thy Power, and hereafter acquitted by Thy final Sentence, I may at laſt arrive to a perfect union with Thee, and to a bleſſed enjoyment of Thee and of Thy glorious Preſence, throughout the boundleſs ages of Eternity. *Amen.*

XIX.

At the Time of the Holy Supper you may uſe the two following Prayers.

I. BEFORE THE BREAD AND WINE ARE ADMINISTERED.

O BLESSED GOD, Who haſt diſpoſed me by Thy Grace to approach Thy Holy Myſteries; Who haſt wrought in me a deſire to ſeek what is ſo valuable in itſelf, and ſo neceſſary to my own happineſs; it is Thine infinite Mercy which hath provided ſuch a remedy for my weakneſs, and which hath not left me to periſh in mine own corruption. Grant, HOLY JESUS

JESUS, that I may ever be thankful for this miracle of Thy Love, and that I may partake of it in ſuch a manner, that my ſoul being nouriſhed with all Goodneſs and Truth, Thou mayeſt ever, by Thy Spirit, live in me, and I in Thee.

To this end, O LORD, compoſe my mind to great ſeriouſneſs and devotion, that the thoughts of this world may not interrupt me in my attendance upon Thee; but that I may have ſuch a deep ſenſe of Thine infinite Mercy, and of my neceſſary dependance upon Thee; ſuch an apprehenſion of Thine unſpeakable Goodneſs to poor, miſerable, ſinful creatures, in this Holy Sacrament, that I may be awed into a becoming reverence, and confirmed againſt all diſturbances and diſtractions.

Enlighten, O LORD, my dark mind with the rays of the Sun of Righteouſneſs; inflame my cold heart with Thy holy Love, that I may be fervent in what I aſk; raiſe my mind by a lively faith and confirmed hope, that I may have an aſſured expectation of all neceſſary ſupplies from Thy Goodneſs; and give me ſuch a true underſtanding of all that is ETERNAL, that I may at all times remember how much it is my concern to long after IT with an earneſtneſs infinitely ſuperior to what belongs to earthly things, and with the utmoſt importunity to pray for all thoſe helps which are neceſſary to bring me to the unchangeable poſſeſſion of Thee and of Thy glory, in the regions above. *Amen.*

II. AFTER THE HOLY COMMUNION HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

WHAT thanks can I return, O MOST GRACIOUS LORD, unto Thy Divine Majeſty, for the opportunity Thou haſt this day given me of approaching Thy holy Altar; for the ſenſe Thou haſt given me of my duty, and for that ſtrength and power whereby Thou haſt in ſome meaſure enabled me to perform it? I will praiſe and magnify Thy

GREAT

GREAT and GLORIOUS NAME; and I will entirely devote myſelf to THY SERVICE as long as I have any being.

BLESSED BE THY NAME for the freſh ſupplies of Grace which I have received at the Holy Communion; grant that they may make me run the way of Thy Commandments with delight and pleaſure, that I may never any more faint, or droop, or tire in my duty.

BLESSED BE THY NAME for thoſe comfortable aſſurances which Thou haſt given me of pardon and forgiveneſs. Let this Thy compaſſionate Goodneſs, be a perpetual obligation to Love and Gratitude: Let it put me upon my guard, that I may watch over all my ways, and do always that which is well-pleaſing in Thy ſight.

BLESSED BE THY NAME for that peace and quiet which Thou haſt reſtored to my ſoul; for thoſe reſolutions which Thou haſt wrought in me to perſevere in Thy ſervice to the end of my days: Make them firm, vigorous and conſtant; and never let any ſinful paſſions any more ruffle and diſcompoſe my mind.

BLESSED BE THY NAME for that reliſh which Thou haſt given me of ſpiritual delights, that deſire of poſſeſſing the eternal inheritance: Let the enjoyments of ſenſe appear mean and contemptible; and let not the pleaſures of the world any more prevail upon me to tranſgreſs Thy holy Laws.

GRANT, O LORD, that I may walk worthy of theſe Thy diſtinguiſhing Mercies, and live as becomes the *Redeemed of the* LORD; remain therefore, O LORD, and abide with me for ever; I ſhall then be enabled to do Thy Will in this life preſent, and to partake of all Thy Glories in that which is to come, O bleſſed LORD JESUS, our only SAVIOUR and REDEEMER. *Amen.*

XX.

SELECT PSALMS.

PSALMS V. VI.

1 LORD, hear the voice of my complaint,
Accept my ſecret pray'r;
To Thee alone, my King, my GOD,
Will I for help repair.

2 Thy wonted goodneſs, LORD, repeat,
And eaſe my troubled ſoul;
LORD, for Thy wond'rous mercy's ſake,
Vouchſafe to make me whole.

3 For after death no more can I
Thy glorious acts proclaim;
No pris'ner of the ſi'ent grave
Can magnify Thy name.

4 Quite tir'd with pain, with groaning faint,
No hope of eaſe I ſee;
The night, that quiets common griefs,
Is ſpent in tears by me.

PSALM IX.

1 THE LORD for ever lives, who has
His righteous throne prepar'd,
Impartial juſtice to diſpenſe,
To puniſh or reward.

2 No ſingle ſinner ſhall eſcape
By privicy obſcur'd;
Nor nation from His juſt revenge
By numbers be ſecur'd.

3 Ariſe, O LORD, aſſert Thy pow'r,
And let not man o'ercome;
Deſcend to judgment, and pronounce
The guilty heathen's doom.

4 Strike terror through the nations round,
Till, by conſenting fear,
They to each other, and themſelves,
But mortal men appear.

PSALM XIII.

1 HOW long wilt Thou forget me, LORD?
Muſt I for ever mourn?
How long wilt Thou withdraw from me;
Oh! never to return?
2 How long ſhall anxious thoughts my ſoul,
And grief my heart oppreſs;
How long my enemies inſult,
And I have no redreſs?

3 O hear! and to my longing eyes
Reſtore Thy wonted light;
And ſuddenly, or I ſhall ſleep
In everlaſting night.
4 Then ſhall my ſong, with praiſe inſpir'd,
To Thee my GOD aſcend;
Who to Thy ſervant in diſtreſs
Such bounty didſt extend.

PSALM XXV.

1 THY Mercies and thy Love,
O LORD recal to mind;
And graciouſly continue ſtill,
As thou wert ever kind.
2 Let all my youthful crimes
Be blotted out by Thee:
And for Thy wond'rous goodneſs ſake,
In mercy think on me.

3 His mercy and His truth
The righteous LORD diſplays,
In bringing wand'ring ſinners home,
And teaching them His ways.
4 He thoſe in juſtice guides
Who His direction ſeek;
And in His ſacred paths ſhall lead
The humble and the meek.

PART II.

5 Since mercy is the grace
That moſt exalts Thy fame,
Forgive my heinous ſin, O LORD,
And ſo advance Thy name.
6 O turn, and all my griefs
In mercy, LORD, redreſs;
For I am compaſs'd round with woes,
And plung'd in deep diſtreſs.

7 The ſorrows of my heart
To mighty ſums increaſe:
O from this dark and diſmal ſtate
My troubled ſoul releaſe.
8 Do Thou with tender eyes
My ſad afflictions ſee;
Acquit me, LORD, and from my guilt
Intirely ſet me free.

PSALM XXVI.

(Sacrament)

1 I'LL waſh my hands in innocence,
And bring a heart ſo pure;
That when Thy altar I approach,
My welcome ſhall ſecure.
2 My thanks I'll publiſh there, and tell
How Thy renown excels:
That ſeat affords me much delight,
In which Thy honor dwells.

3 Paſs not on me the ſinners doom,
Who murder make their trade;
Who other's rights by ſecret bribes,
Or open force invade.
4 But I will walk in paths of truth,
And innocence purſue:
Protect me therefore, and to me
Thy mercies, LORD, renew.

PSALM XXVII.

1 WHOM ſhould I fear ſince GOD to me
Is ſaving health and life?
Since ſtrongly He my life ſupports,
What can my ſoul affright?

2 Henceforth within His houſe to dwell
I earneſtly deſire,
His wond'rous beauty there to view,
And His bleſt will enquire.

3 Continue LORD, to hear my voice,
Whene'er to Thee I cry;
In mercy all my pray'rs receive,
Nor my requeſt deny.

4 For there may I with comfort reſt,
In time of deep diſtreſs,
And ſafe as on a rock abide,
In that ſecure receſs.

PART II.

5 Then hide not Thou Thy face, O LORD,
Nor me in wrath reject;
My GOD and SAVIOUR, leave not him
Thou didſt ſo oft protect.

6 Inſtruct me in Thy paths, O LORD,
My ways directly guide,
Leſt envious men, who watch my ſteps,
Should ſee me tread aſide.

7 I truſted that my future life,
Should with Thy love be crown'd,
Or elſe my fainting ſoul had ſunk
With ſorrow compaſs'd round.

8 GOD's time with patient faith expect,
And He'll inſpire thy breaſt
With inward ſtrength; do thou thy part,
And leave to Him the reſt.

PLALM XXVIII.

1 REGARD my ſupplication, LORD,
The cries that I repeat,
With weeping eyes and lifted hands
Before Thy mercy ſeat.
2 Let me eſcape the ſinner's doom,
Who make a trade of ill,
And ever ſpeak the perſon fair,
Whoſe blood they mean to ſpill.

3 Since they the works of GOD deſpiſe,
Nor will his grace adore,
His wrath ſhall utterly deſtroy,
And build them up no more.
4 But I, with due acknowledgment,
His praiſes will reſound,
From whom the cries of my diſtreſs
A gracious anſwer found.

PSALM XXXI.

1 THY mercy LORD, diſp'ay,
And hear my juſt complaint;
For both my ſoul and fleſh decay,
With grief and hunger faint.
2 Sad thoughts my life oppreſs,
My years are ſpent in groans;
My ſins have made my ſtrength decreaſe,
And ev'n conſum'd my bones.

3 Forſook by all am I,
As dead, and out of mind;
And like a ſhatter'd veſſel lie,
Whoſe parts can ne'er be join'd.
4 But ſtill my ſteadfaſt truſt,
I on Thy help repoſe;
That Thou, my GOD, are good and juſt,
My ſoul with comfort knows.

PSALM XXXII.

1 HE's bleſt, whoſe ſins have pardon gain'd,
No more in judgment to appear;
Whoſe guilt remiſſion has obtain'd,
And whoſe repentance is ſincere.
2 While I conceal'd the fretting ſore,
My bones conſum'd without relief:
All day did I with anguiſh roar,
But no complaint aſſwag'd my grief.

3 No ſooner I my wound diſclos'd,
The guilt that tortur'd me within,
But Thy forgiveneſs interpos'd,
And mercy's healing balm pour'd in.
4 True penitents ſhall thus ſucceed,
Who ſeek thee whilſt Thou may'ſt be found,
And from the common deluge freed,
Shall ſee remorſeleſs ſinners drown'd.

PSALM XXXIV.

1 THRO' all the changing ſcenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praiſes of my GOD ſhall ſtill
My heart and tongue employ.
2 Of His deliv'rance I will boaſt,
Till all that are diſtreſs'd,
From my example comfort take,
And charm their griefs to reſt.

3 O magnify the LORD with me,
With me exalt His name:
When in diſtreſs to Him I call'd,
He to my reſcue came.
4 Fear Him, ye Saints, and ye will then
Have nothing elſe to fear;
Make you His ſervice your delight,
He'll make your wants His care.

PART II.

5 Let him who length of life deſires,
And proſp'rous days would ſee,
From ſland'ring language keep his tongue,
His lips from falſhood free.
6 The crooked path of vice decline,
And virtue's ways purſue;
Eſtabliſh peace where 'tis begun,
And where 'tis loſt renew.

7 The LORD from heav'n beholds the juſt
With favourable eyes;
And when diſtreſs'd, His gracious ear
Is open to their cries:
8 But turns His wrathful look on thoſe
Whom Mercy can't reclaim,
To cut them off, and from the earth
Blot out their hated name.

PSALM XXXV.

(Before the Seſſions.)

1 STIR up Thyſelf in my behalf,
To judgment, LORD, awake:
Thy righteous ſervant's cauſe, O GOD,
To Thy deciſſion take.
2 Let ſuch as in my harm rejoic'd,
For ſhame their faces hide;
And foul diſhonour wait on thoſe
That proudly me defy'd:

3 Whilſt they with cheerful voices ſhout,
Who my juſt cauſe befriend:
And bleſs the LORD, who loves to make
Succeſs His ſaints attend.
4 So ſhall my tongue Thy judgments ſing
Inſpir'd with grateful joy:
And cheerful hymns in praiſe of Thee,
Shall all my days employ.

PSALM

PSALM XXXVII.

1 DEPEND on God, and Him obey,
So thou within the land ſhalt ſtay,
Secure from danger and from want:
Make His commands thy chief delight,
And He, thy duty to requite,
Shall all thy earneſt wiſhes grant.

2 In all thy ways truſt thou the LORD,
And He will needful help afford,
To perfect ev'ry juſt deſign;
He'll make, like light ſerene and clear,
Thy cloudy innocence appear,
And as a mid-day ſun to ſhine.

3 With caution ſhun each wicked deed,
In virtue's ways with zeal proceed,
And ſo prolong your happy days:
For God, who judgment loves, does ſtill
Preſerve his ſaints ſecure from ill,
While ſoon the wicked race decays.

4 In wait the watchful ſinner lies,
In vain the righteous to ſurpriſe;
In vain his ruin doth decree;
God will not him defenceleſs leave,
To his revenge expos'd, but ſave,
And, when he's ſentenc'd, ſet him free.

PSALM XLII.

1 FOR thee, my GOD, the living GOD,
My thirſty ſoul doth pine;
O when ſhall I behold Thy face,
Thou Majeſty divine!

2 I ſigh when e'er my muſing thoughts
Thoſe happy days preſent,
When I with troops of pious friends
Thy temple did frequent.

3 One trouble calls another on,
And burſting o'er my head,
Fall ſpouting down, till round my ſoul
A roaring ſea is ſpread.
4 But when thy preſence, LORD of life,
Has once diſpell'd this ſtorm,
To Thee I'll midnight anthems ſing,
And all my vows perform.

PSALM XLIV.

1 ON us this heap of woes is fall'n,
All this we have endur'd;
Yet have not, LORD, renounc'd Thy name
Or faith to Thee abjur'd.
2 Awake, ariſe; let ſeeming ſleep
No longer Thee detain;
Nor let us, LORD, who ſue to Thee,
For ever ſue in vain.

3 O wherefore hideſt Thou Thy face,
From our afflicted ſtate?
Whoſe ſouls and bodies ſink to earth,
With grief's oppreſſive weight.
4 Ariſe, O LORD, and timely haſte
To our deliv'rance make;
Redeem us, Lord,—if not for ours,
Yet for Thy Mercy's ſake.

PSALM LI.

1 HAVE Mercy, LORD, on me,
As Thou wert ever kind;
Let me oppreſt with loads of guilt,
Thy wonted Mercy find.
2 Waſh off my foul offence,
And cleanſe me from my ſin;
For I confeſs my crime, and ſee
How great my guilt has been,

3 Againſt Thee, LORD, alone,
And only in Thy ſight,
Have I tranſgreſs'd, and tho' condemn'd,
Muſt own Thy Judgments right.
4 Blot out my crying ſins,
Nor me in anger view;
Create in me a heart that's clean,
An upright mind renew.

PART II.

5 Withdraw not Thou Thy help,
Nor caſt me from Thy ſight:
Nor let Thy holy ſpirit take
Its everlaſting flight.
6 The joy Thy favors give
Let me again obtain;
And Thy free ſpirit's firm ſupport
My fainting ſoul ſuſtain.

7 So I Thy righteous ways
To ſinners will impart,
Whilſt my advice ſhall wicked men
To Thy juſt laws convert.
8 My guilt of blood remove,
My SAVIOUR and my GOD;
And my glad tongue ſhall loudly tell
Thy righteous acts abroad.

PSALM LVII.

(Before the Seſſions.)

1 THY Mercy, LORD, to me extend,
On Thy protection I depend,
And to Thy wings for ſhelter haſte,
Till this outrageous ſtorm is paſt.
2 To Thy tribunal, LORD, I fly,
Thou ſov'reign JUDGE and GOD moſt high;
Who wonders haſt for me begun,
And wilt not leave Thy work undone.

3 From

3 From heaven protect me by Thine arm,
And ſhame all thoſe who ſeek my harm;
To my relief Thy Mercy ſend,
And truth, on which my hopes depend.
4 Be Thou, O GOD, exalted high;
And, as Thy glory fills the ſky,
So let it be on earth diſplay'd,
Till Thou art here, as there, obey'd.

PSALM LXXIX.

1 O Think not on our former ſins,
But ſpeedily prevent
The utter ruin of Thy ſaints,
Almoſt with ſorrow ſpent.
2 Thou GOD of our ſalvation, help,
and free our ſouls from blame
So ſhall our pardon and defence
Exalt Thy glorious Name.

3 LORD, hear the ſighing pris'ners moan,
Thy ſaving pow'r extend:
Preſerve the wretches doom'd to die,
From that untimely end.
4 So we, Thy people, and Thy flock,
Shall ever praiſe Thy name;
And with glad hearts our grateful thanks
From age to age proclaim.

PSALM LXXXV.

1 O GOD our SAVIOUR, all our hearts
To Thy obedience turn;
That quench'd with our repenting tears,
Thy wrath no more may burn.
2 For why ſhould'ſt Thou be angry ſtill,
And wrath ſo long retain?
Revive us, LORD, and let Thy ſaints
Thy wonted comfort gain.

3 Thy

3 Thy gracious favor, LORD, diſplay,
Which we have long implor'd;
And for Thy wond'rous Mercies' ſake,
Thy wonted aid afford.
4 God's anſwer patiently I'll wait,
For He, with glad ſucceſs,
(If they no more to folly turn)
His mourning ſaints will bleſs.

PSALM LXXXVI.

1 TO me, who daily Thee invoke,
Thy Mercy, LORD, extend;
Refreſh Thy ſervant's ſoul, whoſe hopes
On Thee alone depend.
2 Thou, LORD, art good, not only good,
But prompt to pardon too;
Of plenteous Mercy to all thoſe
Who for Thy Mercy ſue.

3 To my repeated humble pray'r,
O LORD, attentive be!
When troubled I on Thee will call,
For Thou will anſwer me.
4 Thy boundleſs Mercies ſhewn to me
Tranſcend my pow'r to tell,
For Thou haſt oft redeem'd my ſoul
From loweſt depths of hell.

PSALM LXXXVIII.

1 TO Thee, my GOD and SAVIOUR, I
By day and night addreſs my cry;
Vouchſafe my mournful voice to hear,
To my diſtreſs incline Thine ear:
2 For ſeas of trouble me invade,
My ſoul draws nigh to death's cold ſhade,
Like one whoſe ſtrength and hopes are fled,
They number me amongſt the dead.

3 Remov'd

3 Remov'd from friends, I ſigh alone,
In a loath'd dungeon laid, where none
A viſit ſhall vouchſafe to me,
Confind paſt hopes of liberty.
4 Wilt Thou by miracle revive
The dead whom Thou forſak'ſt alive?
From death reſtore, Thy praiſe to ſing,
Whom Thou from priſon wouldſt not bring.

PSALM XC.

1 O To Thy ſervants, Lord, return,
And ſpeedily relent!
As we of our miſdeeds, do Thou
Of our juſt doom repent.
2 To ſatisfy and cheer our ſouls,
Thy early Mercy ſend;
That we may all our days to come,
In joy and comfort ſpend.

3 Let happy times with large amends
Dry up our former tears;
Or equal at the leaſt the term
Of our afflicted years.
4 To all Thy ſervants, LORD, let this
Thy wond'rous work be known,
And to our offspring yet unborn,
Thy glorious pow'r be ſhown.

PSALM CXVI.

(Sacrament.)

1 IN GOD I truſted, and of him
In greateſt ſtraits did boaſt;
(For in my flight all hopes of aid
From faithleſs men were loſt.)
2 Then what return to Him ſhall I
For all His Goodneſs make?
I'll praiſe His Name, and with glad zeal,
The cup of bleſſing take.

3 I'll pay my vows amongſt His ſaints
Whoſe blood (howe'er deſpis'd
By wicked men) in GOD's account
Is always highly priz'd.
4 By various ties, O LORD, muſt I
To Thy dominion bow;
Thy humble handmaid's ſon, before,
Thy ranſom'd captive now!

PSALM CXIX.

1 'TIS good for me that I have felt
Affliction's chaſt'ning rod,
That I may duly learn and keep
The ſtatutes of my GOD.
2 That right Thy Judgments are, I now
By ſure experience ſee,
And that in faithfulneſs, O LORD,
Thou haſt afflicted me.

3 To me Thy ſaving grace reſtore,
That I again may live:
Whoſe ſoul can reliſh no delight
But what Thy precepts give.
4 In Thy bleſt ſtatutes let my heart
Contiuue always ſound,
That guilt and ſhame, the ſinners lot,
May never me confound.

PART II.

1 CONSIDER my affliction, LORD,
And me from bondage draw:
Think on Thy ſervant in diſtreſs,
Who ne'er forgets Thy law.
2 Plead Thou my cauſe; to that and me
Thy timely aid afford;
With beams of Mercy quicken me
According to Thy word.

3 From

3 From harden'd ſinners Thou remov'ſt
Salvation far away;
'Tis juſt Thou ſhould'ſt withdraw from them
Who from Thy ſtatutes ſtray.
4 Since great Thy tender Mercies are
To all who Thee adore;
According to Thy Judgments, LORD,
My fainting hopes reſtore.

PSALM CXLV.

1 THE LORD does them ſupport that fall,
And makes the proſtrate riſe;
For His kind aid all creatures call,
Who timely food ſupplies.
2 He grants the full deſires of thoſe
Who Him with fear adore,
And will their troubles ſoon compoſe,
When they His aid implore.

3 The LORD preſerves all thoſe with care
Whom grateful love employs:
But ſinners, who His vengeance dare,
With furious rage deſtroys.
4 My time to come, in praiſes ſpent,
Shall ſtill advance His fame;
And all mankind, with one conſent,
For ever bleſs His Name.

A THANKSGIVING ON RELEASE FROM IMPRISONMENT.

O LORD GOD OF MY SALVATION, Who art indeed the hope of all who put their truſt in Thee, and Who in Thine own good time doſt relieve them from all the miſeries of life, how gratefully doth my heart bleſs and praiſe Thee for bringing me to the end of this dreary and ſolitary confinement. Sanctify, I beſeech Thee, all thoſe ſerious reflections which have ariſen in my mind during this long ſeparation from the world; and give me grace to perform all thoſe good reſolutions which I have formed in this ſolitude. Grant that this may be the beginning of a new life to me, that I may conſtantly endeavour for the future to redeem my miſpent hours, and to correct and forſake all the Errors, Crimes, and Miſdemeanors of my former life. O ſtrengthen me with Thy good Spirit, give me a lively faith, an invincible and conſtant perſeverance in the race which is ſet before me, that Thou mayeſt be enabled to ſay unto me as Thou didſt unto the ſupplicant in the Goſpel;—THY SINS ARE FORGIVEN THEE; and that I may at length obtain the reward of everlaſting life, even the crown of Glory which Thou haſt promiſed the afflicted Priſoner in theſe comfortable words: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." *Amen: Even ſo grant,* LORD JESUS.

THE END.

Errata. *Corrections.*

Page.	*Line.*		
10	3	Countrymen or foreigners.	Countryman or foreigner.
51	6	ſhe wall	ſhew all

Sunt alia leviora.